

Pregnant lady killed

SRINAGAR, Feb 20, (Reuters): A pregnant woman and two policemen were killed today during an attack by militants fighting against Indian rule of Kashmir, police said.

They said the woman was caught in crossfire between security forces and militants during the attack and was killed outright along with the two policemen.

A traffic policeman was killed when he ran into a truck as he sprinted for his life during the raid in central Srinagar, summer capital of India's Jammu and Kashmir state, they added.

They were the latest victims in a dramatically stepped-up war by the militants in which over 100 people have been killed in the last month in

an explosion of anti-Indian emotion. Since the riots started, Srinagar and other major Kashmir valley towns have been under nearly permanent curfew, lifted occasionally for a few hours to let people buy food.

The government permitted an 11-hour break in the curfew from dawn today and protesters took immediate advantage to launch a major demonstration.

Five hundred lawyers, followed by a crowd estimated by police at 10,000 and cheered wildly as they passed, marched to the United Nations observers office to hand in a petition demanding a plebiscite on the future of Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state.

The petition also asked UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to send a team to investigate what it alleged were widespread human-rights abuses by Indian security forces.

The new Indian government, like the one it succeeded in December, alleged that Pakistan arms and trains the militants, a charge Islamabad denies. Pakistan sees the agitation as a purely indigenous uprising.

The two countries have fought two of their three wars over Kashmir, one-third of which is under Pakistani control.

The ceasefire line between the two parts of the Himalayan region is supervised by UN observers. Islamabad has seriously irritated New Delhi by backing the call for a referendum in Kashmir, where militant groups are fighting either for a reunited and independent Kashmir or to become a part of Pakistan.

ISLAMABAD, Feb 20, (AP): French President Francois Mitterrand said today that the economic demands of a struggling East Europe should not eclipse those of Third World nations.

In an address to Pakistan's National Assembly, Mitterrand said "the upheavals of our very close neighbours in Europe must not force us to forget the rest of the planet."

"I hope Europe will hear our voice and not close in upon itself."

Pakistan's Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto issued a similar warning.

Regardless of Europe's final shape, whether it is a single European Community or a confederation, Benazir said "the bridges of understanding and co-operation between the First

and Third Worlds must remain intact and must be strengthened if we are to establish a stable economic and political order."

Mitterrand's four-day visit, which began yesterday is the first by a French leader to Pakistan in 25 years. His entourage included his wife Danielle, several cabinet ministers and scores of advisers and reporters.

Mitterrand told the assembly his visit was a tribute to "the democratic evolution of your country." In 1988 Pakistan held its first free polls after more than 11 years of military rule.

The French President, whose 30-minute speech concentrated on economic issues, chided developed nations for propagating poverty in the developing world. He slammed multinational corporations and developed countries

for putting money ahead of "the development of the fate of human kind."

He said France, which has written off debts to 35 of the poorest nations, has tried to cajole the developed world into rethinking its economic strategies in developing countries. Mitterrand said the Third World represents a vast market and that will eventually translate into trade dollars.

The Pakistan government is hoping Mitterrand's promise to help Pakistan enter the 21st century will also enable this country to build a nuclear power plant. In his assembly address the French President guaranteed "the help of France toward your efforts of modernisation."

Several Pakistan sources said Benazir government is hoping to negotiate the construction of a

900-megawatt nuclear power station with France during Mitterrand's visit.

Relations between the two nations have been strained since 1976 when France reneged on a promise to sell Pakistan a nuclear reprocessing plant, which it no longer wants.

The deal fell through after Washington pressured France to withdraw the sale unless Pakistan signed international nuclear non-proliferation treaties and opened its nuclear facilities to international inspections.

However, Benazir reportedly promised to make an exception of a French-supplied facility, saying she would open it to inspection teams from the International Atomic Energy Commission. But inspections would be limited to one facility, she said.

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Death probe

An opposition member of Parliament called on Tuesday for a public inquiry into the death of Sri Lankan journalist Richard De Zoysa, abducted this week from his Colombo home and found shot dead on a nearby beach.

Vesudeva Nanayakkara of the United Socialist Alliance charged in Sri Lanka Parliament that De Zoysa was killed because "he exposed human rights abuses" in the country.

Deputy Defence Minister Ranjan Wijeratne replied that the killing was under inquiry by magistrates.

The 32-year-old journalist was seized by six armed men from his home in a Colombo suburb early on Sunday. His body was found on Monday by two fishermen on a beach in Moratuwa, 18 km (10 miles) south of the capital, police said.

De Zoysa was an editor and Colombo correspondent of Interpress Service, a Third World news agency based in Rome.

China support for Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, Feb 20, (Reuters): Chinese Defence Minister Qin Jiwei today assured Pakistan of Beijing's continued support "in all fields," a Pakistani statement said.

He gave the assurance in talks with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, whom the statement quoted as saying the two long-time allies would stand by each other through thick and thin.

General Qin arrived last night leading a military delegation for a nine-day visit seen by diplomats as a gesture of support to Pakistan in its new row with neighbouring India over disputed Kashmir.

The Sino-Pakistan friendship had "grown so strong that it would be impossible for any third country to damage it," Qin said.

Tourists no longer rush to Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India, Feb 20, (Reuters): "If it goes on like this for another two years, it will be like Beirut," said a senior official referring to Kashmir's tourism prospects.

A big billboard in the centre of the Himalayan state's summer capital Srinagar says: "Welcome to happy valley."

But there are no tourists to read it in the streets where the Indian Army fought Muslim demonstrators for a week last month before enforcing a standstill.

More than 100 people have been killed in the past month in a valley-wide revolt against Indian rule as a campaign for Kashmir's independence or secession to neighbouring Pakistan gathers strength.

The fighting has also halted the tourist traffic — much of it from the rest of India — which provided a livelihood to 60 per cent of the people of Kashmir, renowned for its scenic beauty.

Earlier this month the 200 staff of the Oberoi Palace Hotel were looking after just 12 guests.

They were brought in by 53-year-old Swiss mountain guide Sylvain Soudan, known as "the skier of the impossible", who remains undaunted by the task of attracting rich young Europeans to Kashmir for heli-skiing on Himalayan slopes.

The party saved the hotel from closing for the season.

But Soudan admits that even some of his adventure skiers, who come in groups of 16 to commute by helicopter between the hotel and the mountain tops, may be deterred as international attention focuses on Kashmir.

"For now it looks okay but I am still afraid of cancellations," he said. "I know five people from London are very afraid to come but they have not cancelled so far."

India and Pakistan have fought over Kashmir — India's only Muslim-majority state — twice since 1947 and a third of the territory is controlled by Pakistan.

The latest troubles began last year just when the valley was gearing up for a major tourist breakthrough, said tourism director Iqbal Khanday.

After major promotions overseas and at home, officials expected nearly a million tourists in the valley during 1989.

Just half a million arrived compared with 720,000 in 1988.

"We started out very well. Last year, January was better than in 1988 but by April it started dropping," Khanday said.

The remarkable thing was the number of foreign tourists went up by 10,000 to 70,000 despite the troubles.

Khanday is optimistic the tourist traffic will come back as soon as peace is restored.

But Denis Kapur, executive assistant manager of the Oberoi Palace said: "What we are worried about is that this year the foreign tour operators may drop Kashmir from their itinerary."

"I don't see the situation changing dramatically. Even if it does our business for this year is gone. I don't know what is going to happen."

Occupancy at his 101-room hotel last month averaged seven per cent against the usual 20 to 25 per cent.

Many towns, including Srinagar, are daily put under a 12-hour curfew, their streets deserted except for army trucks and patrols.

All too frequently bombs explode in Srinagar's crowded residential areas or Muslim snipers fire at security forces.

Islamic fundamentalists have closed down all the valley's liquor shops, bars, cinema halls and video hire.

Hotels have been told not to show Indian movies on their in-house video channels.

The houseboats on Srinagar's two lakes are empty.

Calcutta terror. Stoneman kills again

CALCUTTA, Feb 20, (Reuters): A serial killer in India known as the "Stoneman" may have claimed his 11th victim among the pavement dwellers of Calcutta today.

A police spokesman said the body of a 35-year-old man, a street dweller like the earlier victims, was found near the city centre early in the morning.

"Whenever the Stoneman strikes, a huge piece of stone smeared with blood is found next to the body. This time, although there are a few pieces of stone nearby, we could not trace the one that killed the man," the spokesman said.

Mitterrand visit to boost efforts France to help Dhaka control floods

DHAKA, Feb 20, (AP): French President Francois Mitterrand's two-day visit to Bangladesh later this week will focus on efforts to find solutions to the yearly floods in the low-lying nation. Foreign Secretary Abul Ahsan said yesterday.

"France is helping Bangladesh in finding out a solution to our food problem," Ahsan told reporters. "Mr. Mitterrand's visit will boost our efforts in this regard."

The French President, currently on a visit to Pakistan,

will be accompanied by his wife Danielle, who visited Bangladesh during the 1988 floods which left at least 1,400 people dead.

France has given Bangladesh about \$4.5 million US to finance a feasibility study on flood control, which would include methods to control the flow of the Ganges and the Brahmaputra rivers, which flow through the Indian sub-continent and empty into the Bay of Bengal.

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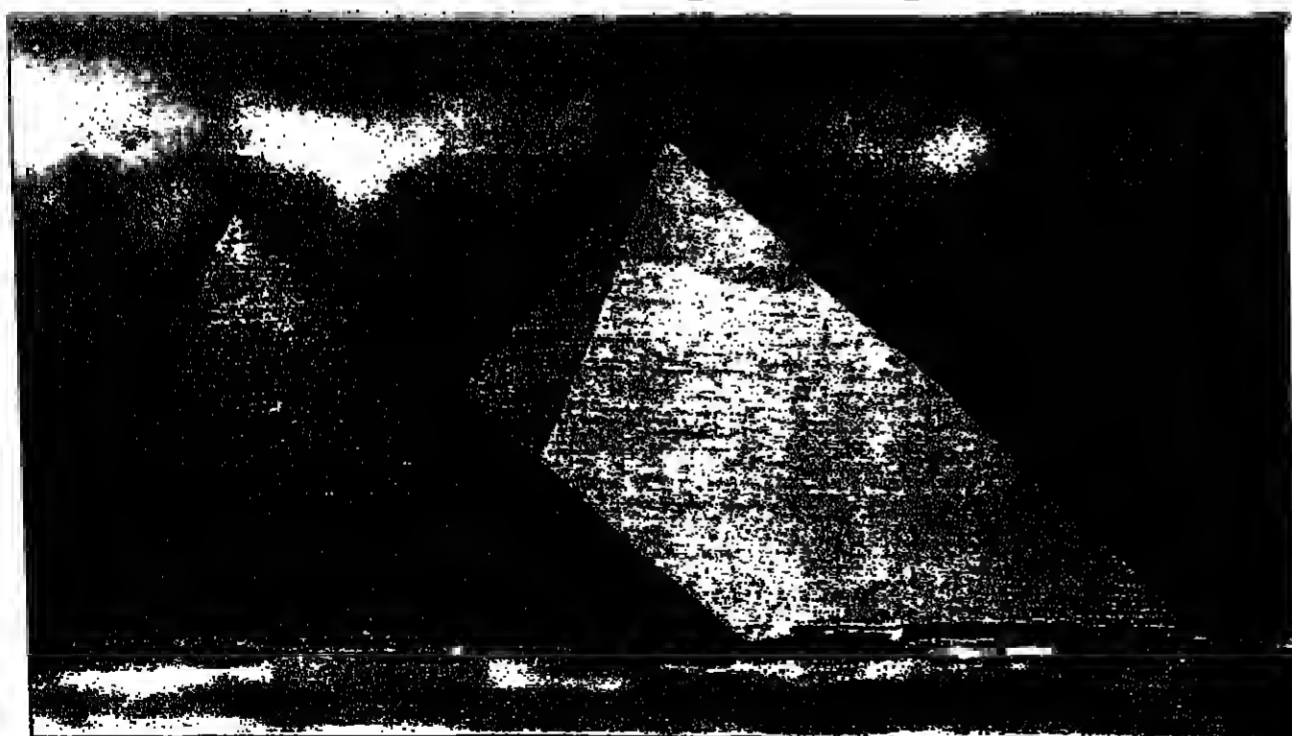
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PEOPLE AND PLACES

Marley kin Police shoot stalker

LOS ANGELES: The latest fad in trend-conscious southern California is a unique memento of childhood that goes beyond delivery room movies: A plaster cast of pregnant mom's bulging belly.

"I thought I had heard of everything. Now, I know I have," Dr. Arthur Wisot, an obstetrician and gynecologist, said after hearing about Dr. Stork's original pregnant dummy cast kit, available by mail-order for \$19.95.

The kit was the brainchild of Fred Scobie, 43, and his wife Dianne 39, of suburban Sherman Oaks. It comes with everything needed to make a mold of the mother-to-be's tummy - gauze, plaster, markers and blue and pink ribbons.

"Sure, it's a piggy thing. Everybody reacts the way you do. We giggle," Scobie said Monday. "We've had so much fun with it all this time and we decided there was some economic potential here."

The kits went on sale just two weeks ago, and Scobie was unsure how many orders he'd received. The idea for casting a pregnant belly blossomed while Mrs Scobie was expecting her first child. (AP)

MIAMI, Feb. 20, (Reuters): The 19-year-old brother of the late Jamaican reggae music star Bob Marley died in a gunbattle with Miami police after frightening shoppers by snaking through stores brandishing a shotgun, police said on Monday.

Anthony Booker, 19, walked around the Cullen Ridge Mall on Sunday afternoon for about 10 minutes waving the shotgun, mumbling and yelling at shoppers, a policeman said.

The spokesman said Booker fired once at police in the shopping mall's parking lot before police shot back. Booker died on Sunday of the gunshot wound.

The spokesman said Booker was the younger brother of Marley, who died of cancer in 1981 at the age of 36 after popularizing reggae music worldwide. Police did not know whether Booker and Marley were full brothers or half brothers.

Booker had been depressed and acting strangely for several days before the incident, his mother, Cedella Booker, said in an interview on local television.

"When I saw him yesterday, he didn't look like my son," she said.

She said he had fired a gun through his bedroom window on Saturday. "He told us not to come to the door and don't bother him. He wanted to be alone," she said.

Raymond Fauntroy, identified as a long-time friend of the family, told local television that Booker had wanted to be a musician like his brother.

Marley, who came out of the shantytown of Jamaica, sold millions of albums around the world and developed a cult-like following.

ROCHESTER, Pennsylvania: Michael Collins' driving is a little erratic. But then again, he's only 2 years old.

The toddler escaped with just bumps and scrapes after he put his mother's car in gear Sunday and steered through a parking lot, over a guard rail, down a 54-foot (15 m) embankment and across a four-lane highway before coming to a stop at another hill, police said.

Michael's mother, Tawna Collins, 25, suffered a broken shoulder when she tried to get into the car as it moved across the parking lot next to Diner's restaurant in Rochester, police said.

The mother briefly left Michael in the car near their home, with the commission in ink and the engine running, police said. Somehow the 2-year-old moved the gear shift into drive and steered the car into the parking lot while the mother gave chase on foot, police said.

The mother was knocked down by the car before it jumped the guard rail and went down the embankment, police said. (UPI)

DENVER, Colorado: Eugene Fodor, the gifted, flamboyant violinist arrested last July for possessing cocaine and heroin, says his image as the cowboy violinist kept him from receiving critical international acclaim.

"I think what went wrong was the advice I got from my first manager and the insistence of the PR (public relations) firm he hired that they promote this image of me as an outdoorsman," Fodor said during a recent interview. "I mean, sure I was from the West, but they even said I looked like Mick Jagger."

Fodor, 39, said he experimented with drugs over the years and had started using cocaine heavily before he was arrested last July at a motor hotel on Martha's Vineyard, a resort island south of Cape Cod in Massachusetts. He was charged with breaking and entering and possession of cocaine, heroin and a hypodermic needle.

He was sentenced to three years' probation under which he is subject to random drug testing.

The violin virtuoso is scheduled to appear next weekend with the Colorado Symphony Orchestra. (AP)

PHILADELPHIA, Pennsylvania: Bowling for Rhinos is the name of the game in benefit events the American Association of Zoo Keepers is holding across the United States this week.

Proceeds go to the efforts to save the endangered African black rhinoceros, prized by poachers for their horns.

After Ohio fund-raisers brought in \$15,000 in fund-raising for black rhinos two years ago, the zoo keepers decided to expand the program this year.

The association's 62 chapters throughout the United States. One-third of them have planned bowling events this week.

When sign-up sheets were posted at the Philadelphia zoo, the staff quickly responded. (AP)

SANTA BARBARA, California: Legendary actress Dame Judith Anderson, seven years shy of her 100th birthday, returned to the stage Sunday night, giving an emotional and rare performance to benefit a local theatre.

"I must say I'm always nervous before a performance, but especially tonight," said Anderson, 93, who has made only rare stage appearances since retiring more than 20 years ago.

"Here I thought I'd read a little Macbeth and Hamlet and it wouldn't be so bad. But oh, dear, it is."

The Tony and Emmy award-winning actress, appearing regal in a chiffon and silk-embroidered Jean Louis dress, performed for more than an hour before a standing-room crowd in the 140-seat Ensemble Theatre, which benefited from the evening.

The 5-foot-4 (1.62 m) Anderson, her hair still a reddish brown, commanded the stage. Her voice boomed, raved and then trembled as called by the lines.

NEW YORK: The marital woes of billionaire Donald Trump and his wife, Ivana, have reached "the highest echelons of boredom," and a media circus is in order, the boring institute says.

"Why does the public have to be subjected to the same overkill of rumour, innuendo and occasional factual information that we suffered through in 1985 with Roseanne Barr?" said Alan Caruba, founder of the Tongue-in-Cheek Institute based in Maplewood, New Jersey.

Caruba would like to see a media circus in which "nothing is said or written about the Trumps for at least a week, allowing for some minimal sanity to return to the newscrooms of America."



Splashing on screen

Nadia Comaneci, the Romanian gymnast sweetheart of the 1976 Olympics in Montreal, smiles with Japanese entertainers during an appearance on Tokyo Television. Comaneci said she is making a

biographical movie in the US which will culminate in her defection from Romania (late last year). (Reuters wirephoto)

Generosity can cost

BENNINGTON, Vermont, Feb. 20, (AP): A 91-year-old woman's birthday gift to her great-nephew may end up costing her home and life savings - and her case could set a wide-ranging legal precedent.

She is to testify this week about the 1984 gift that went awry.

Lucella Wilson gave her great-nephew Willard Stuart money to purchase an automobile in 1984. Stuart lacked a driver's license and insurance at the time.

Shortly after he bought the car, Stuart drove it off a bridge after drinking beer and whiskey and smoking marijuana. A back-seat passenger, Mark Vince, was partially paralysed as a result of the accident, according to records, and later had a leg amputated.

Vince sued Ms Wilson for negligence under a legal concept known as negligent entrustment. Under it, prosecutors claimed that Wilson was negligent by providing the money for Stuart to buy the car.

While refusing to reserve that decision on appeal, the Vermont Supreme Court later ruled that a jury should decide if Ace Auto of Bennington and its president and salesman in the deal, Gary Gardner, should share the liability for selling the car to Stuart.

After the high court's ruling, superior court judge Arthur O'Dea opened the way for a retrial, saying the jury can also decide if Vince shares the liability for entering the car when he knew the driver had been drinking and smoking marijuana.

NOM honour Barr

NEW YORK, Feb. 20, (UPI): The National Organisation for Men, which says it is out to protect men from attacks by "radical feminists," yesterday awarded TV sitcom star Roseanne Barr its annual "whimpy, grumbler and grouser" award.

Sidney Siller, the founder of the 10,000-member group, said the award is given "to recognise deliberate efforts to drive a wedge between men and women."

He said Barr, the comedian who often pokes fun at macho males, has helped feed "the media's destructive image of men."

Siller, a New York attorney who writes Penthouse magazine's "Men's rights" column, said NOM was founded six years ago to oppose what he calls power-hungry feminists, who he said were seeking to oppress men and dominate society.

"We're getting the short end in a lot of different areas," Siller said. "Radical feminists attack us and we let them. We're starting to lose out."

Runners-up for this year's award, in order, were TV talk show host Phil Donahue, representative Patricia Schroeder, Democrat of Colorado, Lael Rubin, who prosecuted the McMartin preschool child sex abuse case in California, and New York Mets outfielder Darryl Strawberry.

The other finalists were feminist Molly Yard, Senator Ted Kennedy, Democrat of Massachusetts, actresses Zsa Zsa Gabor and Lily Tomlin, and ousted Panamanian leader Gen. Manuel Noriega.

Siller said that the award judging took into account what he called insensitive sexist remarks about men in the media, support of "ultra-feminist" philosophies and participation in activities that demean and defame the role of men in society.

"For years, we have been witnessing the arbitrary mistreatment of men in the media and courts simply because they are men," he said.

Natural risks outweigh man

Cancer alarm on food

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 20, (AP): Nature's own cancer-causing chemicals that are an unavoidable part of foods represent a greater health danger than pesticides and other pollutants, a health official warns.

A new estimate by the US Food and Drug Administration concludes that more than 98 per cent of the cancer risk in the diet results from ordinary foods - not from additives, poisons or other man-made contributions to the food chain.

"The risk is from natural carcinogens in the diet because they overwhelm all the others," said Dr Robert J. Schenkein, director of the office of toxicological sciences at the US Food and Drug Administration.

This does not mean that all food is dangerous or even that people can do much about the hazard. Instead, Schenkein's analysis was intended to focus attention away from what he sees as a largely bogus health issue - chemical contamination.

Dr Frank Young, a former FDA commissioner who now is deputy assistant secretary of health and human services, agreed.

"The headline should not be, 'all foods cause cancer' or 'drop dead. Don't eat,'" Young said. "The good news is, let us not as a nation focus just on the technological food additives. We ought to focus on the big issues as well."

Instead of worrying about the vanishingly small risk of a star in apples or dioxin in milk, Schenkein said food scientists should be exploring ways to remove the important toxins in ordinary foods.

He presented his findings yesterday at a meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Schenkein based his conclusions on a statistical analysis of the quantity of cancer-causing toxins found in

various parts of the diet.

He said that the risk of dying from cancer from dietary exposure to all kinds of carcinogens, or cancer-inducing substances, was 7.7 per cent. The risk from traditional food alone was 7.6 per cent.

The clearest cancer-causing agent in ordinary food, he said, is fat, which has been linked with several kinds of tumours. However, most foods now eaten would not pass safety tests required for new food chemicals and additives.

He estimated that carcinogens make up one-tenth of 1 per cent of the food people eat. Among concerns he cited were:

- Well-cooked, high-protein foods, such as meat and eggs, contain substances that can cause genetic mutations. An ordinary day's protein can be as damaging to the genes as five cigarettes.
- Hazardous urethane is a natural product of fermentation. It is present in beer, yogurt, bread and other foods.
- Mycotoxins produced by molds are common in many foods, especially when stored in warm humid conditions. Aflatoxins occur in corn and peanuts, zearalenone in soybeans and luteoskyrin in yellow rice.
- Smoked or salted fish and pickled vegetables may cause digestive cancers. This is attributed to nitrates and funguses.
- Grilling and charring fish or meat can produce potentially hazardous substances, such as nitrotyrines.
- Many spices contain questionable substances. There is estragole in tarragon, eugenol in cloves, cinnamaldehyde in cinnamon, myristicin in nutmeg and anethole in fennel.
- Several spices, including oregano, majoram and bay leaves, may cause genetic damage.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

America

California beaches hit by sewage

deluge: Southern California's golden beaches, hit by a 400,000 gallon (1.5 million litre) oil spill two weeks ago, are now being deluged by sewage.

Eighteen miles (29 km) of beach remained closed Monday after nearly eight million gallons (30 million litres) of sewage spewed into the Santa Monica Bay over the weekend.

An additional 20 miles (32 km) of beach were closed indefinitely after the American Trader tanker leaked the Alaskan crude oil earlier this month.

The Coast Guard said last week it had no estimate when all the oil would be cleaned up.

The oil spill damaged beaches in Orange County while the sewage hit beaches north of Los Angeles County. (Reuters)

Transplantee gets second transplant

Stormie Jones, the 12-year-old recipient of the world's first heart-liver transplant, underwent a second liver transplant early Tuesday because of damage from hepatitis.

A team of surgeons began the operation around 3:15 am (01:15 GMT), said Liz McMahon, a spokeswoman for children's hospital.

The surgery was expected to last 12 to 16 hours, said another hospital spokeswoman, Margy Buczynski.

"The doctors aren't expecting many complications because she is in good condition," Ms Buczynski said.

Stormie and her mother, Lois Purcell, flew to Pittsburgh from their home in white Settlement, Texas, on Monday. (AP)

Barry to seek more counseling

Embattled Mayor Marion Barry, undergoing treatment at a substance abuse centre in Florida following his arrest on federal drug charges, will leave the facility Wednesday to seek additional addiction counseling, the Washington Post reported Monday.

Barry, indicted on eight federal counts of cocaine possession and perjury, is expected to be transferred this week from the Hazelden-Hazelden Centre in west Palm Beach, Florida, to another facility, possibly the Betty Ford Centre in Rancho Mirage, California, senior administration officials told the Post.

The three-term mayor tentatively decided to seek treatment at the Betty Ford Centre following his Jan 18 arrest, but later settled on the 30-day programme at Hazelden-Hazelden. (UPI)

Icy lake freezes over 3

Three teenagers from a camp for juvenile delinquents and four adults plunged into icy Convict Lake, and were presumed dead after the lake froze over them, officials said.

The 13- to 16-year-old youths from nearby Camp O'Neal were on an outing to the lake Monday in the eastern Sierra Nevada about 250 miles (400 kilometres) north of Los Angeles when they apparently fell through thin ice a quarter-mile (1-2 kilometre) from shore, said Mono County sheriff-cum-courier Martin Strelnick.

Two Camp O'Neal counselors, a US forest service worker and a volunteer firefighter also fell into the lake as they tried to save the youths around noon, said Strelnick. The holes through which they fell froze over just hours later, he said. (AP)

Out-of-court settlement

Relatives of 13 people killed and 32 people injured in the collapse of a department store will share a \$33.1 million out-of-court settlement of lawsuits, attorneys said in Brownsville, Texas.

The lawsuits were filed over the July 7, 1988, collapse of a three-floor Amigo store during a torrential thunderstorm in this border town. Many of the injured were from Matamoros, Mexico, just across the Rio Grande. (AP)



'Brazil-out' carnival

Revellers in the Brazilian city of Santos maintain a 67-year-old tradition of taking to the streets dressed as women, a week before carnival. By tradition, only men take part in this 'Brazil-out'. (Reuters wirephoto)

Latin America

Endara gets engaged: President Guillermo Endara and his 22-year-old girlfriend are engaged, a presidential spokeswoman said Monday in Panama city.

Endara, 52, and Ana Mae Diaz became engaged in "a simple ceremony in the presidential palace on Feb 14," spokeswoman Raquel Gomez said.

The engagement was initially not announced, and officials confirmed it only after rumours began to circulate.

Endara's wife, Marcela Cambra, died last June, a short time after he won the May 7 presidential elections. Former dictator Manuel Antonio Noriega had the elections annulled, and Endara took office during the Dec 20 US invasion that overthrew Noriega. (AP)

De Mello to reduce cabinet posts

President-elect Fernando Collor de Mello designated one minister to take the place of three others, a signal he will follow through on a campaign pledge to reduce by almost half the number of cabinet posts in Rio de Janeiro.

Collor announced that Oziere Silva, former president of Petrobras, the state oil monopoly, and former chief of Embraer, the government-owned aircraft builder, will be named to head a new Ministry of Infrastructure.

The ministry, according to the announcement, will combine the ministries of mines and energy, communications, and transportation.

Collor, elected Dec 17, has pledged to reduce the number of ministers from 23 to 12 in an economy move. He is to be inaugurated March 15. (UPI)



Gravely ill

Former El Salvadorian president Napoleon Duarte who is reputed to be gravely ill and near death with cancer and blood clots in his lungs. (Reuters wirephoto)

Uri to lend a hand

Psycho-politics

PROVIDENCE, Rhode Island, Feb 20 (AP): Psychic Uri Geller claims to be able to bend spoons through mindpower, and now he is aiming to get voters to bend his way and support a US senator who is into parapsychology.

Senator Claiborne Pell, a Democrat whose penchant for the paranormal is well publicised, was praised by Geller for standing up to the criticism that his beliefs engender.

"I will beam my energy for him to win the election," Geller told the Providence Journal-Bulletin during a recent interview.

"People ridicule him, but he stands there," Geller said of the senator from Rhode Island. "All the barrage of controversy, he rides it out."

Pell has no lock on the paranormal vote, however. His opponent, Republican Congressman Claude Schneider, has taken her share of nibbling as well for her interest in astrology.

Ecologists protest US ships: Several dozen persons concerned with ecology and militants of Brazil's small Green Party demonstrated in front of the US consulate in Rio de Janeiro Monday to protest against the arrival of two US nuclear-powered warships.

The march was led by Carlos Minc, a deputy of the Green Party, who said he has filed suit in court to force the two vessels, the aircraft carrier USS Enterprise and the cruiser USS Long Beach, to leave the port. (UPI)

16 Andeans killed in clashes

Maist guerrillas screaming insults overran an Andean hamlet as the villagers slept, killing nine peasants and wounding seven, police said Monday in Ayacucho, Peru.

Two rebels were reported killed in the fighting Sunday between Shining Path guerrillas and members of the village's militia in Ayacucho department 235 miles (375 kilometres) southeast of Lima.

In other violence in the Andes Mountains, Shining Path rebels killed three policemen and two government agroecologists in an attack Saturday on the village of Paripato in the Callejón de Huaylas region 195 miles (320 kilometres) north of the capital.

The guerrillas also burned the police station, municipal headquarters and the court house. (AP)

Parachutist falls to death

A skydiver was killed when his parachute failed to open after he jumped from a helicopter alongside Angel Falls, the world's highest waterfall, the Venepres news agency said Monday in Caracas, Venezuela.

The state news agency identified the dead man as Jean Marc Boivin, 39, and said he was a mountain climber from France. A companion, Katherine Kohl, also jumped from the helicopter and was injured when wind slammed her against the mountain wall.

Venepres said. The accident happened over the weekend. Venepres said, but the agency did not specify which day.

Boivin had gone to the southern region of Guayana to visit the flat-topped mountains near the falls and to parachute parallel to the 3,212-foot-high (979-metre) cascade, a risky stunt that has been carried out several times, Venepres reported.

Ms Kohl was an Air France pilot, according to Venepres. (AP)

Chile capsizes toll 21

Three bodies were recovered from a Pacific Ocean ship Monday, bringing to at least 21 the number of people who perished in the capsizing and sinking of a fishing boat overloaded with passengers in Chile.

President Augusto Pinochet cut short a farewell tour in southern Chile to visit survivors in the town of Valdivia 530 miles (850 km) south of Santiago.

"I came here to involve myself directly in the situation," Pinochet said. "If there is some help needed we are going to provide it immediately." (UPI)

US cardinal visits Cuba

Cardinal Bernard Law, archbishop of Boston, is visiting Cuba for talks with local Catholic church leaders, a spokeswoman for the Cuban Episcopal Conference said on Monday.

Nor was he aware, CBS reported Reagan testified, that any Iran-Contra activity was going on.

In a key piece of testimony that could help the defence of former National Security adviser John Poindexter, CBS said Reagan described as "innocuous" letters that Poindexter wrote to Congress asserting that the NSC staff was in compliance with the spirit and letter of the law regarding support of the Nicaraguan Contras.

The letters are a critical part of Poindexter's defence. The charges against the retired navy rear admiral involve obstructing a congressional inquiry and making false statements to Congress about arms sales to Iran and secret efforts to aid the Contras in their guerrilla war against the Nicaraguan government. At the time, Congress had banned such direct US assistance.

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During the two days of testimony, however, CBS quoted sources as saying there were many details that Reagan said he couldn't remember. And one source told the network that Reagan, although very alert, sometimes became confused by questions.

Observers told CBS that there were no claims of executive privilege by the former president, and little disclosure of classified information — a main reason why the public was barred from the courtroom.

Key nations to address drug session
UN meeting to focus on plans to fight trafficking

UNITED NATIONS, Feb 20, (AP): The United States and two Andean countries fighting the international drug scourge address the UN General Assembly on Tuesday, the opening day of the world body's special session on narcotics.

Thailand, one of the heroin-rich nations of Southeast Asia, also will make an opening-day speech, providing another view of the global problem that recently has focused on the illegal drug trade between the United States and South American countries waging war on cocaine production.

The four-day session will focus on plans to enhance UN efforts in the international anti-drug battle, seeking ways to cut supplies, reduce demand and unravel traffickers' schemes for laundering profits.

US officials see the session as an important follow-up to a regional drug summit last week in Colombia that drew together the presidents of the United States, Colombia, Bolivia and Peru. In addition to the United States, Colombia and Bolivia are among countries scheduled to address the special session on Tuesday.

Providing the 159-member United Nations with enough money to heighten its role in the attack on illegal narcotics will be a key concern during the session.

UN officials estimate that the illegal drug trade brings in \$500 billion annually. The United Nations has set aside about \$4 million a year to fight its drug war.

During his speech Tuesday, US Secretary of State James Baker plans to press other countries to contribute more money for the international attack on illegal narcotics trafficking, said US officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity. Baker also plans to stress that the drug war is not limited to the United States and Latin American countries, the officials said.

At the Colombia summit, the presidents of the four countries signed a communique vowing closer co-ordination in the drug fight.

They called for a world conference against illicit drug trafficking in 1991 and a high-level Latin American follow-up in six months.

Their agreements commit the US government to provide economic aid to help the three

Andean nations wage the drug battle and persuade their farmers to grow alternate crops to the coca plant, which is used in producing cocaine.

Their communique also calls for tougher enforcement of drug laws and increased international gun control.

Other nations scheduled to address the UN session on the opening day are: Ireland, Mexico, the Bahamas, Nigeria, West Germany, Brazil, Jamaica, France, Yugoslavia, Japan, Austria, Malaysia, Egypt, Sweden, India, Singapore, Argentina, Algeria, Guyana and Indonesia.

Bogota rebels release US priest

BOGOTA, Feb 20, (AP): Leftist guerrillas late last night freed a US priest who had been kidnapped last week as a protest to US President George Bush's visit to Colombia for an anti-narcotics meeting.

The priest, Francis Amico Ferrari, 43, said in a live radio interview that he was released unharmed in the western Colombia city of Cali.

Two other US citizens who were also kidnapped last week to protest Bush's visit are still in the hands of the guerrillas.

Those two, James Donnelly and David Kent, were kidnapped last Tuesday in the northwestern city of Medellin.

Amico Ferrari was abducted last Thursday morning in Cali while on his way to his church in a slum neighbourhood.

The National Liberation Army, a guerrilla group led by a former priest, Manuel Perez, has claimed responsibility for all three abductions.

In the radio interview, carried by the Caracol network, Amico Ferrari said he had been lectured by the guerrillas on Latin America's foreign debt, right-wing death squads and the need to nationalise foreign oil holdings.

The Colombian attorney general's office says right-wing death squads have killed hundreds of leftists in Colombia in the last five years.

Amico Ferrari said the leader of the guerrillas who kidnapped him was polite and intelligent and treated him with respect. The priest also said he was treated well during his five days of captivity.

Amico Ferrari is the superior of a parish in one of Cali's poorest neighbourhoods. He founded the Basilian priests' branch in the neighbourhood, San Andrea, after arriving in Colombia in 1967.

The National Liberation Army issued a communique through Colombian news media last Friday claiming that the kidnappings were to protest Bush's coming to Colombia.

The communique accused the United States of trying to impose its will on Colombia.

The Associated Press obtained a copy of the statement, which declared: "Gringos out... El Salvador and Colombia will win."

The mayor of a southwest Colombia city was kidnapped yesterday by the rebel group that abducted three US citizens last week, police said.

Mayor Fabio Gomez Rengifo, known for his hardline policy against the guerrillas, was grabbed by heavily armed men belonging to the National Liberation Army outside Almaguer, 245 miles (395 km) southwest of Bogota.

In a related kidnapping case, radio reports from Bucaramanga said district attorney Jorge Mesa Correa, abducted by ELN guerrillas two weeks ago was released yesterday in the capital.

In Cartagena last night, guerrillas attacked three police posts and dynamited an electric power substation, leaving much of the city of 530,000 people without power, police said.

The National Liberation Army claimed responsibility for the attacks, which wounded five policemen, an officer at the police headquarters for the state of Atlacaco said.

Major breakthrough in African politics

De Klerk to seek ties in Zaire summit

JOHANNESBURG, Feb 20 (AP): South African President F. W. de Klerk will meet with at least five black African leaders this weekend in Zaire in what may be a major breakthrough in African politics, officials said today.

In an effort to ease friction with black states, De Klerk will meet Saturday with the leaders of Zaire, Rwanda, Burundi, Chad and the African Central Republic to discuss regional issues and political developments in South Africa, said the officials, who declined to be identified.

Togo and Gabon may also be represented at the one-day meeting.

De Klerk is expected to brief the black leaders on his recent reforms in South Africa, including the release of Nelson Mandela and legalisation of the African National Congress and other anti-apartheid groups. De Klerk is seeking to end white-minority rule and extend political rights to South Africa's black majority.

The Zaire meeting is also expected to discuss efforts to end the civil war in Angola. Zaire President Mobutu Sese Seko has been mediating between the Angolan government and the Unita guerrilla group headed by Jonas Savimbi.

South African newspapers reported today that some black nations may be considering establishing diplomatic ties with South Africa as it moves to end white-minority rule. The reports, quoting official sources, said South Africa expects to establish formal relations with several black nations by the end of the year, but did not say which ones.

South Africa has full diplomatic relations with just one black African nation, Malawi, and trade missions in Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Swaziland and Lesotho. The reports did not say which nations might extend diplomatic ties, but Ivory Coast and Zaire reportedly are considering such a move.

In addition to Mobutu, De Klerk will meet Saturday with President Hissen Habre of Chad; President Major Gen. Juvenal Habyarimana of Rwanda; President Pierre Buyoya of Burundi; and President Gen. Andre Kolingba of the Central African Republic.

Mandela's freedom had been the main obstacle to diplomatic links with the land of apartheid for Zaire and other moderate African states like Ivory Coast and Gabon.

"De Klerk is trying to cash in as soon as possible on the ANC," said Richard Cornwell, an analyst with the Pretoria-backed African Institute.

Cornwell said De Klerk's meeting with several countries that have backed the ANC would put pressure on the newly legalised group — the main organisation fighting white rule — to start negotiations with Pretoria on a political settlement.

A movie distributing company said yesterday it would release the anti-apartheid film "Cry Freedom," which was confiscated the day it opened in South Africa almost 19 months ago.

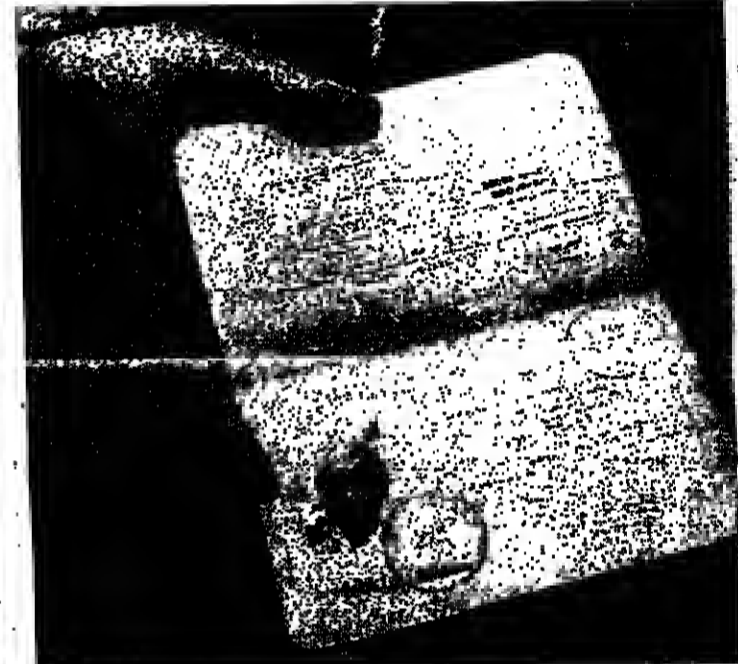
United International Pictures said police returned the copies of the "Cry Freedom" seized July 29, 1988, when authorities said the picture was a danger to public safety.

The company said a new nationwide release was planned for April 27.



Mandela gets passport

Black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela (left) shows his passport on Feb 19. A close-up of the passport is shown at right. The South African government authorised an application for himself and his wife Winnie. Mandela is expected to travel to Lusaka, Zambia next week to meet exiled leader of the ANC. (Reuters wirephoto)



Black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela (left) shows his passport on Feb 19. A close-up of the passport is shown at right. The South African government authorised an application for himself and his wife Winnie. Mandela is expected to travel to Lusaka, Zambia next week to meet exiled leader of the ANC. (Reuters wirephoto)

Protest at killing
Kenya students rally

NAIROBI, Feb 20, (AP): University students demanding an impartial investigation into the murder of Kenya's foreign minister marched in the capital today and hijacked two public buses.

Reports reaching Nairobi indicated another demonstration in a western town near the dead minister's family home turned violent, with an unspecified number of injuries and arrests.

The partly burned body of Robert Ouko was discovered Friday by police in heavy brush six kilometres (four miles) from his family farm in Kori, near Lake Victoria in western Kenya. He had been missing for four days.

Ouko, considered one of Kenya's most articulate cabinet members, had been shot in the head and his handgun was found near his body, the government said. The students came from the University of Nairobi's main campus, a branch campus in a Nairobi suburb and Kenyatta University, 19 kilometres (11 miles) from the city.

"We actually don't know how many they are," a police officer said. "Maybe a thousand."

The students chanted "No cover-up" and "We want justice," and taunted police with shouts of "Where were you?"

Reporters following the students saw them commandeer two buses that were then driven to Ouko's suburban Nairobi residence. The reporters saw no violence.



Mourning the dead

Ilena Galeano, whose husband, brother and cousin were killed on Feb 18, in a Contra attack 15 miles northeast of Estel, weeps as she travels with her children in a truck carrying their coffins to the cemetery for burial on Feb 19, in Estel, north of Managua. (Reuters wirephoto)

African ministers meet in Ethiopia

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia, Feb 20, (AP): African foreign ministers have been urged by Ethiopia's leader to assess possible effects of changes in Eastern Europe on the continent's economy and politics.

President Mengistu Haile Mariam also said the ministers should evaluate the meaning to Africa of the relaxation of tension between the Soviet Union and United States.

Ethiopian Vice-President Fisseha Desta read Mengistu's statement at the opening session of the Organisation of African Unity foreign ministers five-day conference.

Various African leaders have expressed concern that Western nations would abandon the continent and divert aid they previously gave Africans to Eastern Europe, where communism is collapsing.

Another item on the agenda is political changes in South Africa, where President F.W. de Klerk recently legalised the African National Congress and freed from prison Nelson Mandela, the best known of the liberation movement's leaders.

Mengistu noted there have been few conflicts recently between OAU's 40 member states "but many of us have been denied peace and stability by externally instigated forces (to advance) further Balkanisation of Africa."

He was referring to the civil war in northern Ethiopia where the secessionist Eritrean People's Liberation Front and the Tigre People's Liberation Front are fighting government troops.

Ethiopian officials have accused unidentified Arab nations of arming the rebels.

Reagan claims no knowledge of Iran-Contra wrongdoing, reports CBS

WASHINGTON, Feb 20, (UPI): Former president Ronald Reagan, in videotaped testimony last week in the Iran-Contra trial of his National Security adviser, denied authorising or knowing about any illegal activity, CBS news reported yesterday.

The network, quoting sources familiar with the closed testimony in a Los Angeles federal courtroom, reported Reagan said that under no circumstances did he approve or direct anyone to make false statements, conceal information or destroy anything to keep Congress from learning about the worst scandal of his

presidency.

Nor was he aware, CBS reported Reagan testified, that any Iran-Contra activity was going on.

In a key piece of testimony that could help the defence of former National Security adviser John Poindexter, CBS said Reagan described as "innocuous" letters that Poindexter wrote to Congress asserting that the NSC staff was in compliance with the spirit and letter of the law regarding support of the Nicaraguan Contras.

The letters are a critical part of Poindexter's defence. The charges against the retired navy

rear admiral involve obstructing a congressional inquiry and making false statements to Congress about arms sales to Iran and secret efforts to aid the Contras in their guerrilla war against the Nicaraguan government. At the time, Congress had banned such direct US assistance.

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questions from reporters when he left the downtown courtroom Saturday afternoon.

During the two days of testimony, however, CBS quoted sources as saying there were many details that Reagan said he couldn't remember. And one source told the network that Reagan, although very alert, sometimes became confused by questions.

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EEC debates SA sanctions

Dublin warns Britain

DUBLIN, Feb. 20, (AP): European Economic Community foreign ministers met here today, with Britain pressing the wealthy trading bloc to drop a ban on new investment in South Africa and hinting it may lift the embargo unilaterally.

As the meeting began in the medieval Dublin castle, Irish sources suggested that as a compromise, the EEC could send a fact-finding team to South Africa to determine whether the white-led government's reform warrant easing the embargoes.

The team would likely consist of officials from France, Ireland and Italy — the past, present and next European Community presidents, the sources said.

Ireland told Britain today not to break ranks with its partners by lifting sanctions against South Africa.



Ex-minister jailed

A former deputy finance minister was jailed Monday because an investigating magistrate and prosecutors feared he might flee the country to avoid trial in a financial scandal.

Nikos Athanassopoulos, (shown above being escorted by policeman) a socialist member of former premier Andreas Papandreu's cabinet, faces possible prison sentences of 10 years to life if convicted of ordering a cover-up. Investigating magistrate Emmanouel Deskalakis and three new Democracy Party deputies who acted as prosecutors in a special court said that unless he was jailed, Athanassopoulos might try to flee the country.



Doctor shot dead

A Greek prison doctor who specialised in drug cases at a top security prison was murdered in Athens on Monday and a police spokesman said urban guerrillas were suspected.

Marios Maratos, 47, a neurosurgeon who worked at Korydallos prison, was attacked by at least two men while walking to his car. They fired three to five shots from a pistol before speeding off on a motorcycle.

The type of attack is a favourite used by the Nov 17 guerrilla group which has killed 14 people in Athens since 1975. Police said the group, which assassinated conservative deputy Pavlos Bakoyannis in September, was a prime suspect. Picture shows plainclothes policemen examine the body of the doctor. (Reuters wirephoto)

In an interview with Irish radio before the start of a meeting of the community ministers, Irish Foreign Minister Gerry Collins said:

"It would have very serious implications if they do that. The entire credibility of European political co-operation would be on the line."

Earlier, Irish officials said British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd appeared to be isolated in his demand for an immediate easing of sanctions.

The community's commissioner for external relations, Frans Andriessen, added in an Irish radio interview that the one-day meeting "will not be easy. But there might be much more understanding than people believe there to be."

The foreign ministers were also expected to focus on rapid moves toward German unification. Ireland announced last week it will summon a special European Community summit in April because of the pace of developments.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, the West's most outspoken opponent of sanctions against South Africa, argues that the community's relatively mild embargoes should be lifted gradually to reward the white-led government's reforms.

She also says that unless South African President F.W. de Klerk can show some international response to his legalising of the African National Congress and release of Nelson Mandela this month, he may be toppled in a white backlash.

Apart from Britain, the community includes three of South Africa's other major trading partners: West Germany, Italy and France.

In angry exchanges with opposition legislators in the British Parliament last week, Hurd said that if there is no agreement in Dublin, "the government must preserve its right to act on its own if necessary."

Mrs. Thatcher has said she will not unilaterally drop the binding embargoes imposed by the community in 1986. They consist mainly of bans on the imports of iron, steel and kruggerand gold coins.

Other, non-binding embargoes, which Mrs. Thatcher wants lifted quickly, ban the promotion of tourism, new government loans to South African agencies and state funding of trade missions to South Africa.

France's tap water unsafe

PARIS, Feb. 20, (Reuters): After its mineral water, now France's tap water is in the firing line.

French Environment Secretary Brice Lalonde said today that drinking water was unsafe in many areas because a clean-up campaign had fallen well behind schedule.

"The fight against domestic pollution has stalled," Lalonde told a news conference. His remarks came one week after France's best-known mineral water Perrier was pulled off shelves around the world in a contamination scare.

"I was stunned when I read that in 1975, we expected to clean up 90 per cent of the pollution by 1990," Lalonde said. "We are at 35 per cent, very inadequate for a modern country."



Riot police battle anti-US bases demonstrators outside Clark air base, 70 kms north of Manila yesterday. About 30 people were hurt when police drove the protesters trying to march on to the base. (Reuters wirephoto)



Filipino Vice-President Salvador Laurel and opposition Senator Juan Ponce Enrile in Makati after the Philippine Supreme Court stopped the government from selling a prime piece of land in Central Tokyo

Cheney fails to soothe angry Filipinos

CLARK AIR BASE, Philippines, Feb. 20, (AP): US Defence Secretary Dick Cheney left today for Japan after failing to soothe Filipino anger over aid cutbacks.

Cheney, on a two-week tour that also has taken him to Hawaii, South Korea and Hong Kong, departed from this sprawling US-run base in the heart of communist rebel country after arriving by helicopter from Manila, 80 kilometres (50 miles) to the south.

Yesterday, Cheney met with Filipino defence officials angry over what they believe is American failure to honour commitments made in 1988 to maintain Clark and five other US military bases in this country.

President Corason Aquino, whose government was defended last year by American war jets, refused to meet him. But she said later she welcomed his statements reiterating strong US support for her and for Philippine democracy.

"I also welcome his reiteration that the United States will make its best efforts to meet its pledges for foreign assistance," she added.

Cheney told the defence officials that the United States will abandon its bases to the Philippines if it finds that keeping them is too expensive or that Americans are unwelcome.

Security was tight during the

brief Clark visit, where Cheney inspected US military aircraft.

In a joint press statement issued today at the end of his two-day visit, Cheney and Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos "reaffirmed the continuing need for a security relation between the two countries."

"Secretary Cheney reiterated (US) President (George) Bush's statement expressing strong US support for Philippine President Corason Aquino and Philippine democracy," the statement said.

The statement also said the Filipino defence chief proposed "joint use" by Philippine and US military units of Clark Air Base and Subic Bay Naval Station "with the view to mutual cost reduction and optimal utilisation."

The statement did not say how Cheney replied to the proposal.

Meanwhile, the left-wing league of Filipino students said the original reasons for maintaining the bases no longer existed because of the end of the cold war and moves toward global disarmament.

"The United States is afraid of ghosts that it has concocted," said Roberto de Castro, the league's vice chairman.

A spokesman for the reform the Armed Forces Movement, which spearheaded the Dec 1-9 coup attempt against Aquino, repeated warnings that the

Cory speech jammed

MANILA, Feb. 20, (AP): Mutineers today claimed that they jammed a live television broadcast President Corason Aquino made from a tightly guarded military school to show her "impotence" in controlling the armed forces.

The Sunday broadcast of Aquino's 15-minute speech during graduation exercises at the Philippine Military Academy was interrupted 18 times.

But a spokesman for the Reform the Armed Forces Movement said his comrades jammed Aquino's speech from inside the campus to show their ability to move freely even under strictest security.

"It proves more and more how impotent and how incompetent her hold is of her people and her armed forces," said the caller, using a codename.

United States must not intervene in the group's next rebellion.

US President George Bush ordered US jets from Clark to provide air cover for loyal troops on the first day of the mutiny, helping to turn the tide against the rebellion.

An issue in yesterday's discussions was a \$96-million cut Congress made in the US administration's request for \$306 million to compensate the Philippines for the six bases, which also include the giant Subic Bay Naval Base.

"We recognise there is a shortfall of \$96 million over what we had anticipated," Cheney said. "I also pointed out that in East Asia, in this part of the world, the United States provided a little over \$600 million, and about \$500 million of that comes

specifically to the Philippines."

Cheney has said his discussions with Filipino officials did not amount to the beginning of negotiations to extend the bases agreement, which expires next year.

An influential Filipino minority is pressuring Aquino not to renew the agreement. In addition, leading Filipino congressmen have urged her to postpone those discussions until this year's cuts are restored.

Today, columnist Maouel Martinez wrote in the independent newspaper the Manila Times that Americans were exploiting the Philippines.

"When you think of your visit here, Mr Cheney, remember you are coming to a country whom you massively looted and

maimed and occupied," Martinez said. "And what do you do to the ordinary Filipino? You destabilise his democratic government. You bamboozle his lady president. You wring his neck with foreign debts."

Also yesterday, Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus said Cheney told Philippine officials that the United States would reduce US troops in this country by 2,000 over three years starting this year. There are some 18,000 US military personnel in the Philippines, plus 20,000 dependents.

More than four hours after Cheney left Clark, about three dozen leftist students tried to enter one of the base's gates to hold a protest rally but US and Filipino guards pushed them back, reporters said.

One reporter said two passenger jeeps drove near Clark's "friendship" gate and students jumped out and darted inside the base. Guards stopped the protesters, shoved them back outside and closed the gate.

The protesters, chanting "Yaokees go home, bases out," picketed the gate for 15 minutes before leaving in their jeeps.

Additional American and Filipino soldiers and two US armoured personnel carriers later arrived to reinforce the gate guards.

Jeep skids into ravine, six killed

MANILA, Philippines, Feb. 20, (AP): A passenger jeep plunged into a 70-metre (yard) ravine in the northern Philippines, killing six people, including an Israeli and two Swedish tourists, officials said today.

The passenger jeep was rounding a sharp curve Sunday along a national highway from Banaua to Bontoc town in nearby mountain province when it skidded off a cliff, according to a Philippine constabulary report.

It bounced down the ravine and landed on a ledge, about 70 metres (yards) below, said Swedish Vice Consul Ulf Lindell.

Two Swedish nationals, an Israeli and three Filipinos were killed while another Israeli and three Filipinos were seriously injured, the constabulary said.

The Swedish fatalities were identified as Erich Thomas Deveras, 27, and Cristina Maria Carolyn Ronnqvist, 23, both of Stockholm according to the military.

Israeli consul Jacob Y. Zahih identified the Israeli fatality as Josef Ovadia, 29, and the injured Israeli as Eli Bargaba, 23, both of Tel Aviv.

Scribes part of rebel raid

MANILA, Feb. 20, (Reuters): Foreigners believed to be journalists accompanied 300 communist guerrillas whose attack on an army outpost killed nine people, a Philippine military officer said today.

Brigadier-General Federico Ruiz said the foreigners were believed to have been invited by the rebels to witness and photograph the attack on the central island of Samar.

Six rebels and three soldiers were killed and seven soldiers wounded in the attack yesterday in Arteche, 540 km (340 miles) southeast of Manila.

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7 am to 4 pm.

Kaifu, bolstered by election, prepares new cabinet lineup

TOKYO, Feb. 20. (AP): Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, bolstered by what he called a vote of confidence in parliamentary elections, met with other governing party leaders today to discuss a new lineup for the cabinet.

Members of the Liberal Democratic Party's powerful executive and general councils tendered their resignations at meetings this morning, clearing the way for Kaifu and party powerbrokers to begin negotiations for the top cabinet and party posts.

The party leaders also discussed

strategies for battling the opposition over taxes and the budget when parliament convenes later this month.

Before Sunday's election for the lower house of parliament, Kaifu's position had appeared shaky. He has a weak personal power base within the LDP and there were doubts the LDP would do well at the polls following an influence-buying scandal and an unpopular 3 per cent sales tax.

Before the elections, Kaifu said he would resign after six months in office if the party failed to retain at least 257

of the 512 lower house seats.

But Sunday's election brought 275 seats back to the Liberal Democrats and 14 conservative independents are likely to join them later. The ruling party will form a government not far behind the 295 seats they held in the outgoing house. The top opposition Socialists won 136 seats, up from 83.

Though the combined opposition fell far short of ousting the Liberal Democrats from control of the lower house, it holds a majority in the upper house, which must give its assent to

most bills passed by the lower house. The lower house can name the prime minister, pass the budget and approve treaties without upper house assent.

Kaifu said the election result "absolved" the party of its taint of scandal, and promptly declared that he would serve out his two-year term as party president.

"We started when the party was said to be in the greatest crisis since it was formed," Kaifu told reporters. "The result of the election is a vote of con-

fidence of the people under the constitution, and our government has passed it."

Foreign Ministry spokesman Taizo Watanabe told reporters today that US President George Bush has congratulated Kaifu in a letter on the election results.

Analysts say Kaifu's staying power will face several tough tests — including how he deals with Japan's chronic trade surplus with the United States — in the coming months. It is also possible he might misstep and become vul-

nerable again.

If he does, a more powerful figure within the Liberal Democratic Party, former Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe, is widely thought to be preparing to try to replace him.

Kaifu is expected to visit Washington in the near future, a government spokesman said today.

The spokesman, Taizo Watanabe, said no date for the proposed trip had been set, but the period from late April to early May was "not that far from the target."

Kaifu, whose ruling Liberal Democratic Party won a solid majority in crucial lower-house elections on Sunday, will be making the trip because "the development of friendly relations with the United States is very important" for Japan, Watanabe said.

Kaifu and US President George Bush would be expected to discuss trade problems currently under negotiation in bilateral talks under what the Americans call the Structural Impediments Initiative (SII).

NEWS IN BRIEF

Airdrop of caterpillars: The US government is studying the possibility of airdropping swarms of tiny caterpillars to eat the coca crop in Peru and Bolivia and cut cocaine supplies to the United States, the Washington Post reported on Tuesday in Washington.

The Post said the administration of President George Bush recently quadrupled the budget for a programme to develop chemical and biological agents to destroy drug crops.

The \$6.5-million programme is testing a red dye to kill marijuana and a soil fungus that wipes out coca. But the paper said the main focus is the malumbia, a white moth which, when in the caterpillar stage, eats the coca plant's green leaves.

Researchers believe if they breed mass quantities of the insect and drop them from aeroplanes, growers will be unable to stop them.

"It looks promising," said Waldemar Klassen, associate deputy administrator for the agricultural research service, who heads the project.

But Robert Poole, a Department of Agriculture research entomologist, told the Post it was impossible to predict how the pest might affect the environment. (Reuters)

Global warming study hindered: Efforts to predict the effects of global warming are being hurt by lack of access to 40 years of Soviet and US military data on the north polar ice cap, scientists said in New Orleans.

Submarine sonar measurements of the thickness of the ice cap are crucial to understanding ocean currents underneath the ice cap, said Michael Schlesinger of Oregon State University.

Those currents must be understood if researchers are to predict accurately the rate of warming of the earth's climate as carbon dioxide is released into the atmosphere, Schlesinger said Monday at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

"What I want is, month by month, the thickness of sea ice — which you can only get by submarine," Schlesinger said.

Soviet military planners have the same data on the north polar ice cap that American military officials have, Schlesinger said. But his Soviet colleagues have told him they cannot get the data.

Satellite measurements of the monthly changes in the size of the ice cap are available, but the satellites cannot be used to measure the ice's thickness, he said. (AP)

Giotto back in business: The European Space Agency's satellite Giotto, in hibernation since its spectacular 1986 rendezvous with Halley's Comet, reawakened Monday on a signal from the Earth and is being readied for another mission to a comet, the ESA reported.

At 125 Greenwich Mean Time, ESA began sending a series of commands to Giotto from the Madrid-tracking station of Nasa's deep space network in Spain to activate the spacecraft.

At 1506 GMT, the response came, a weak whisper from 100 million kilometres (62 million miles) away but enough to tell the technicians at the ESA's European Space Operations Centre in Darmstadt, West Germany that Giotto was back in business. (AP)

Asia

4 boat people slash themselves: Four Vietnamese men slashed their abdomens Tuesday to protest the policy that threatens to return them to their homeland, and a detention camp fight injured three others later in the day, officials said in Hong Kong.

The four men, aged 25 to 40, were hurried to a hospital after injuring themselves with homemade weapons at Whitehead Detention Centre, said government spokeswoman Winnie To. Their wounds were not serious and they left the hospital after refusing treatment, she said.

Four other boat people facing repatriation injured themselves in a similar fashion earlier this year at the detention centre. They all survived, but another Vietnamese man hanged himself Friday after being denied refugee status. (AP)

Iranian accused of killing: Prosecutors demanded a six-year prison term for an Iranian accused of killing his Irish fiancée in his Tokyo apartment last July, a court official said Tuesday in Tokyo.

The prosecution demanded was presented Monday at the fifth and final hearing in the murder trial of Mostapha Razeghi, according to a court official who spoke on condition of anonymity. A final ruling is scheduled for March.

Razeghi is accused of killing Carmel Ruane, 29, of Belfast, Tara County, Ireland, on July 19 in the room the couple shared, the official said.

He was arrested July 20, for allegedly murdering her over problems relating to their approaching marriage, local news reports have said. (AP)

A new card up his sleeve: Last-minute talks between Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen and former monarch Prince Norodom Sihanouk could open the way for progress at next week's Jakarta meeting on Cambodia, diplomats said on Tuesday.

Hun Sen is scheduled to arrive in Bangkok on Wednesday for talks with the prince ahead of the February 26-28 Jakarta meeting. He will also meet Thai Prime Minister Chatichai Choonhavan and Army Chief General Chavalit Yongchaiyudh.

The meeting, which was requested by Sihanouk, has raised speculation among diplomats in Bangkok that the quirky prince might have a new card up his sleeve to try and force a speedy resolution to the 11-year conflict. (Reuters)

Sihanouk to live in bamboo hut: After 11 years of palaces and luxury hotels, Cambodia's wandering Prince Norodom Sihanouk is to return to live in a bamboo hut in his impoverished homeland Friday.

There will be no flags or fanfare in the streets of the capital, Phnom Penh, where a Vietnamese-installed communist government still rules.

After the life he has enjoyed in Beijing, Pyongyang, Paris and Bangkok since fleeing Vietnam's invasion in late 1978, the guerrilla leader's new home will be in a "liberated zone" of the remote northwest of Cambodia, a spokesman said Tuesday. (AP)

Fund to protect environment: Malaysia, under attack for felling its rainforests, has called for global trust fund to protect the environment, the official Bernama news agency reported on Tuesday.

The trust fund could be financed by levies on ozone-depleting substances and managed by an international body with wide representation, Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad told a seminar on the resort island of Penang. (Reuters)



Teachers protest

Middle school teacher Lee Hwa-Yoon holding her five-year-old son Kwang-Je, protests for more democratic education and labour laws, along with fellow teachers in front of the National Assembly in Seoul Feb. 20. Police detained all 300 demonstrators but said they would release them later in the day. About 1,500 teachers including Lee have been fired from their jobs for joining an illegal nation-wide union of teachers. (Reuters wirephoto)

No serious damage

Quake hits Tokyo area

TOKYO, Feb. 20. (AP): Buildings in downtown Tokyo swayed for more than a minute today as a strong earthquake rocked the capital area but there were no immediate reports of serious injuries or damage, officials said.

The earthquake struck at 3:53 pm (0653 GMT) and sent office workers leaping from their desks. Trains on two high-speed "bullet" train lines were briefly halted, the Japan Broadcasting Corp. (NHK) reported.

The central meteorological agency said the earthquake measured 6.6 on the Richter scale and was centred off the Izu peninsula southwest of Tokyo, an area of high seismic activity. Its epicentre was 20 kilometres (12 miles) below the ocean bed, it said.

An earthquake registering 6 on the Richter scale can cause serious damage in populated areas. A quake measuring 7 is considered major and capable of widespread damage.

Japan is hit frequently by earthquakes, and many buildings in the Tokyo area are designed to withstand strong tremors.

Africa

Tribes clash, 20 dead: Twenty men were killed with spears and knives in a battle between rival tribes over disputed grazing rights, police said Monday in Johannesburg.

The Koba and Wela tribes raided each other's villages Sunday after the two groups quarrelled over grazing rights for their cattle, police said. The fighting erupted in Natal province on the east coast.

All of the dead were men, police said. About 12 but were set on fire in the fighting, they said. (AP)

Comoros announces new poll: The Comoros islands have set a fresh presidential election for March 4 after balloting in the country's first-ever poll collapsed in chaos on Sunday.

State-run radio Comoros announced the new date following an emergency cabinet meeting on Monday.

If none of the eight candidates gets more than 50 per cent of the vote, a run-off ballot between the two leading contenders will take place on March 11.

Seven opposition candidates accused interim president Said Mohamed Djohar, who is contesting the polls, of trying to rig Sunday's election and demanded his resignation. (Reuters)

Dialogue to renew democracy: A national conference aimed at injecting democracy and reuniting the economy opened Monday in Benin, virtually bankrupt after 15 years of Marxist-Leninist economics.

President Mathieu Kerekou, who seized power when he was an army major in 1972, was forced to call the conference because of increasing civil unrest, including protests calling for him to resign.

In his opening address, Kerekou urged the 493 delegates to propose ways to transform Benin into a democratic and free country, and to ensure a just society in which its 4 million citizens can develop fully. (AP)

Danjuma urges democracy: A former Nigerian chief of staff Monday accused Africa's many military governments of corruption and mismanagement, and said only democracy can save the continent.

Lt. Gen. Theophilus Yakubu Danjuma said civilian leaders in Africa also have failed their people. (AP)

Twelve women win in Japan

TOKYO, Feb. 20. (AP): A 42-year-old bar owner, Socialist Party chairwoman Takako Doi and a lawyer mother of three were among 12 women election winners, nearly doubling the number of women in parliament's lower house.

The 12 matched the previous high set in 1979. Before Sunday's election, there were seven women in the 512-seat lower house.

The governing Liberal Democratic Party, however, fielded no women candidates and won a strong majority of 275 seats, down slightly from last election.

"Women simply haven't been a big issue," said Robert Orr, professor of political science at Temple University Japan in Tokyo. "Not having women in their ranks didn't hurt the Liberal Democrats at all."

Women affiliated with the main opposition Socialist Party made the greatest gains — reflecting the popularity of the charismatic Ms. Doi and support for her party's campaign to abolish a widely disliked sales tax.

There were two female Socialist representatives in the outgoing house.

Seven of eight women running as Socialist candidates and one independent endorsed by the Socialists won seats in Sunday's balloting.

They included Ms. Doi, 61, and Hideko Ito, a 46-year-old lawyer and novice candidate who won the largest number of votes in the election — 261,170.

Madonna

Ms. Ito, who has three children, was dubbed the "red Madonna" of the snow-white cities of Hokkaido, Japan's northernmost island.

She was one of eight first-time winners who benefited from support for new women candidates known in the media here as "Madonnas" for their contrast with the "old boys" of backroom politics.

Socialist Yuriko Hase, 42, who runs a bar in the glitzy Shinjuku entertainment district in Tokyo, won for the first time, as did lawyer Kikuko Suzuki, 54.

The "Madonna" phenomenon first became apparent last July, when a record 22 women were elected to the upper house, up from 10.

The sole female candidate of the no. 2 opposition Komeito (Clean Government Party) and another woman running as an independent won seats, but only two of 29 women fielded by the Japan Communist Party won. The communists, traditionally more open to women than other political parties, have five female representatives in the outgoing lower house.

Facing tough competition from male incumbents, conservative independent women candidates failed to win any seats. They included Seiko Noda, a first-time candidate and granddaughter of a prominent Liberal Democratic lawmaker, and Makiko Hamada, wife of Conservative Party legislator Takajiro Hamada.

Among the 66 women running in the election were 15 representing the Shinto Party, a group sponsored by a controversial Buddhist cult. They and their male colleagues received minimal vote counts.

Despite the moderate gains, it was unclear how much support for women candidates came from women voters. There was no breakdown available of male-female voting patterns.



Taiwan riot police clash with supporters. (Reuters wirephoto)



Police throw Huang (lower left) and Tsai from the hall during protests. (Reuters wirephoto)



A police officer attempts to stop his men from beating a protester. (Reuters wirephoto)

Taiwan vote put off after rioting

70 hurt in protest demanding reform

TAIPEI, Feb. 20. (Reuters): Taiwan's Parliament today put off voting for its new speaker after at least 70 people were injured in bloody rioting by demonstrators demanding parliamentary reform.

After a ten-hour stand-off, the Parliament decided to postpone the scheduled vote until February 27, but witnesses said a number of protesters remained outside the building, setting fire to hedges and trashing motorcycles.

Police said the rioting, some of the fiercest seen in Taiwan in recent years, injured at least 70 people, including 50 policemen. There were no initial reports of arrests.

For the Nationalists, the violence on the street was matched by humiliation in the legislative chambers as deputies for the opposition Democratic Progressive Party demanded that elderly Nationalist legislators give up the seats they have held uncontested for four decades.

The so-called "mainland deputies" still claim to represent constituencies in mainland China after the Nationalist government lost to communist armies in 1949, and have resisted generous financial offers to give up power.

Opposition lawmakers successfully delayed the election of the new speaker and deputy speaker by repeatedly challenging the right of the old deputies to cast their votes.

Hundreds of protesters from all over Taiwan gathered outside the Parliament building this morning, hurling rocks and bottles at cars that arrived carrying the nationalist veterans and chanting obscene slogans.

State television showed Nationalist deputies, some using canes and supported by nurses and guards, cowering as enraged protesters screamed insults in their faces.

At least one old deputy collapsed and an ambulance later seen leaving the Parliament building was greeted by hoots and catcalls from the crowd.

"Hurry up and die," yelled one protester, assuming the ambulance carried an old nationalist legislator.

At mid-morning, protesters attempting to storm the Parliament building were beaten back by riot police armed with shields, clubs and electric prods.

Police charged the crowd repeatedly and hand-to-hand fighting spread through the streets around the building, sending bystanders scurrying for cover and forcing local shops to slam shut their metal shutters.

When police retreated, gangs of protesters roamed the streets, torching one car and overturning at least 11 others that they claimed belonged to police. At its height, the crowd numbered as many as 1,000, witnesses said.

"We are doing this because for 40 years we have had no democracy. We are burning up inside," one demonstrator said.

HK Attorney-General urged to quit over scandal

Legal dept in illegal activity

HONG KONG, Feb. 20. (Reuters): Hong Kong's legal department has been rocked by scandal, with one of its prosecutors jailed on a vice charge, another vanishing while under investigation for corruption, and the colony's Attorney-General under pressure to resign.

Christopher Harris, a senior counsel in charge of prosecuting vice cases, was sentenced yesterday to 18 months in jail on charges of inciting a police undercover agent to procure an under-age girl for sex.

Harris, who had pleaded not guilty, will appeal the sentence. He was found not guilty on two other counts of inciting a prostitute to procure under-age girls.

The case, which lasted three weeks, dominated the colony's English-language press and focused attention on the behaviour of the legal department and Jeremy Mathews, Attorney-General since 1988.

Harris, branded a "potentially dangerous sexual deviate" by Judge John Roy, had originally been allowed by Mathews to resign and return to private practice when the police investigation into his activities was first reported to the legal department.

Mathews, who has admitted full responsibility for the original decision not to prosecute Harris, changed his mind and ordered charges to be brought after a barrage of press publicity and howls of outrage from local pressure groups.

Betty Eng, secretary of the Hong Kong Council of Women which had campaigned for Harris to be brought to trial, said: "I think the whole process has been something the Attorney-General's chambers can learn from."

"The outrage the community felt at having its confidence and trust violated should be a lesson to the people in positions of authority," she said in a statement.

Mathews has maintained that independent legal advice was sought for the original decision and during the case defended his actions by saying that his personal experience was in civil law, not criminal law.

During the trial, defence counsel Gary Ploeman attacked Mathews' change of mind to prosecute as "downright unfair."

"Because the Attorney-General decided not to prosecute Harris, that gave the press carte blanche to indulge in the most extraordinary media coverage that I have ever seen in all the time I've been in Hong Kong," he told the court.

The Harris affair is not the only problem faced by the legal department. Deputy crown prosecutor Warwick Reid, a New Zealander, vanished towards the end of the last year while being investigated by the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) on suspicion of

corruption.

Reid was at one stage consulted by Mathews over pressing charges against Harris and according to legal sources was in favour of prosecution.

ICAC officers have since visited New Zealand to investigate Reid's disappearance but so far he has not been found.

Mathews also faces problems in his private life — at the height of the public debate on the Harris affair he told the English language daily South China Morning Post in an extraordinarily candid interview that his marriage of 21 years was over and he intended meeting another woman.

She was identified as a government information officer.

His wife Sophie, interviewed the next day, said she knew nothing of the affair.

The Post, whose reporters first broke the news that Harris was not to be prosecuted, today called for Mathews to resign.

Burmese greet ban on popular opposition leader with sullen silence

BANGKOK, Feb. 20. (Reuters): Burmese privately expressed sullen disappointment and anger at the ruling military council today over the barring of opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi from elections but made no overt protests, diplomats said.

They said there had been no signs of the hit and run demonstrations that have characterised opposition to the army, but that a mood of sullen resentment had returned to Rangoon since the posting of

candidate lists over the weekend.

"Much as it was expected, it is still a bitter blow for people who saw the government's treatment of (Aung San Suu Kyi) as a litmus test of the whole election process," a diplomat said.

The army, which has ruled under martial law since a bloody clampdown on nation-wide protest 18 months ago, has promised free and fair elections in May but rounded up thousands of political activists, diplomats said.

On Monday diplomats said the election commission had apparently barred most popular dissident Aung San Suu Kyi from running after candidate lists omitting her name were posted in Rangoon.

"I don't think they ever had any intention of letting her go forward. She's too much of a rallying point. One way or another her fate was sealed a long time ago," one said.

Tin Oo, chairman of her National

League for Democracy (NLD), was automatically excluded late last year when he was jailed for three years. Former premier U Nu was barred after he refused to disband an alternative government formed during 1988's mass uprising.

The diplomats, contacted by telephone from Bangkok, said that during conversations with some Burmese citizens and some officials had said they were angry and disappointed the army had muzzled the opposition's leading light.

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Cheney hopeful of Japan support

TOKYO, Feb 20, (AP) US Defence Secretary Dick Cheney arrived in Tokyo today as US officials expressed hope that his three days of talks here would bring a "sizeable increase" in Japan's support for American forces stationed in this country.

"The Japanese are very understanding and are very willing to help us as much as they can," said a Pentagon official travelling with Cheney en route from the Philippines.

The US defence secretary is in Japan on his final stop of a two-week tour of Asian nations that play host to US forces. He has been consulting with them about a possible 10-12 per cent reduction in US troops based in Japan, South Korea and the Philippines.

Cheney also has been seeking sharp increases in the funding the host nations provide for those forces, including a doubling of the \$300 million the South Koreans contribute to the stationing of 43,000 US soldiers in their country.

The official travelling with Cheney said the defence secretary did not intend to deal in specific figures with the Japanese, who each year provide around \$2.4 billion in US troops based in their country.

"We do not have any numbers... We're confident they understand our requirements," the official said, adding, "We're hopeful that over the years, we'll see a sizeable increase in Japanese support for US forces here."

Pentagon sources have indicated that at least 10,000-12,000 troops could be withdrawn from the Pacific rim — translating into around 5,000 for Japan — over the next three years under a plan being studied by Defence Department officials.

The study is part of a reassessment of the US military role in the Pacific that Cheney must send by April 1 to Capitol Hill, where some lawmakers have demanded cuts in overseas forces in light of reduced superpower tensions.

The official travelling with Cheney said the Japanese did not appear to be disturbed by such a minor reduction in US troop strength, given that they do not face such a direct threat as do the South Koreans, and also because they are more concerned about the long-term US presence in their arena.

Modrow asks for talks now

EAST BERLIN, Feb 20, (AP) Premier Hans Modrow called today for East and West German experts to start immediate talks on unification under the formula worked out with the World War II allies last week.

Meanwhile, a joint commission led by cabinet ministers of the two Germanys met today for the first time for talks on monetary and economic union between the two states, a major step toward reunification.

Modrow, addressing East Germany's Parliament, said experts from the two German states should "begin preparing the 'two-plus-four' conference as soon as possible."

At a meeting in Ottawa, the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain and France agreed with the two German states on a two-stage plan to achieve German unification.

In the first stage, experts from the two Germanys would discuss political, economic and legal steps to achieve unity. In the second stage, the two states would be joined by the four allies to discuss international implications of unification. The formula became known as "two-plus-four."

Modrow said that parallel with these talks, preparations should be made for the 35-nation Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe. Modrow suggested the conference should strive for creating a "European federation" suggested by French President Francois Mitterrand.

The two German states should inform European partners of all progress in their talks on unification, the premier said.

Modrow also urged both German states to issue a joint statement guaranteeing Poland's western borders, addressing a key concern raised by Poland.

The Soviet Union wants a neutral united Germany, while West Germany and its Western allies insist it should remain in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

Earlier in his address to Parliament, Modrow appealed to East Germans not to hoard food, following announcement that subsidies would be removed soon.

He said he had heard of runs on grocery stores to stock up while prices remain low.

"I ask every citizen to show restraint and not to buy beyond normal needs," he said.

On Monday, representatives of 16 organisations, including the communist-led government, the pro-democracy parties and labour unions, agreed to abolish state food subsidies before the March 18 free elections.



Havel flashes a 'V' sign as he acknowledges the applause from the Czechoslovakian community in Canada. (Reuters wirephoto)

Czechs for democracy

Dubcek prevented bloodbath

No regrets

WASHINGTON, Feb 20, (Reuters) Czechoslovak President Václav Havel began his visit to the United States today with a strong declaration that democratic principles would guide Czechoslovakia's domestic policy and its relations with the world.

"We want to have better relations with all nations, but only with those governments which are democratic," he said during a question and answer session with students at Georgetown University.

Havel, who is to meet President George Bush later today and address a joint session of Congress on Wednesday, is the first head of state from a newly democratic eastern European nation to visit the United States.

At the question-and-answer session Havel, a 53-year-old playwright, stressed that within Czechoslovakia publishers and the press were free to print as they wished, and said he would be unconcerned by a reunified Germany so long as the nation was democratic.

"The crucial factor is not how large a nation is, but the system which prevails there," he said at Georgetown.

Asked if he would tell Cuba to quit operating its interest section at the Czechoslovak embassy in Washington, Havel replied by saying that the Cuban ambassador to Czechoslovakia was the sole diplomat who failed to congratulate him on his election.

"Maybe there was a frown on his face because he could foresee that the relations between my country and his would be of a different character," he said.

Havel said in an interview on Cable News network (CNN) that during his visit he hopes to explain Czechoslovakia's democratic revolution of last year, its foreign policy aspirations, and discuss the future of Europe.

He is seeking to expand trade and educational programmes with the United States, although he has said he did not want direct economic aid.

"We're more interested in intellectual assistance and expertise. In my mind, that's more important than just money," he told CNN.

German reunification also was expected to figure heavily in the talks.

LONDON, Feb 20, (AP) Alexander Dubcek, the Czechoslovak leader whose experiment in "socialism with a human face" was crushed by Warsaw Pact forces in 1968, says the decision not to resist the invasion prevented a bloodbath.

Dubcek also said he believed his colleagues had given him sedatives in an attempt to curb his temper during a showdown with former Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev.

"I know that newsgroup film shot at the time showed the people angry and ready for any sacrifice. Perhaps our army also would have been willing to stand up and fight. But I think that the decision we made at the time was correct," Dubcek said in an interview for broadcast last night on independent television.

"If we had resisted, which is certainly what the Soviets expected, we would have drowned in blood," Dubcek said.

Granada Television, which produced the interview for its "World in Action" programme, called it as Dubcek's first extended interview with Western journalists in 20 years.

Arrested after the invasion and taken to Moscow, Dubcek said he had decided he would not co-operate in any negotiations intended to produce a written agreement with the Soviets.

Dubcek, then first secretary of the Czechoslovak Communist Party, said he told Prime Minister Oldrich Cernik he had resigned. His colleagues refused to accept his resignation.

Dubcek said the Czech delegation was three concessions from the Soviets: No justification for the invasion, no agreement to cancel Czechoslovakian reforms, and no acceptance of the right of any other communist country to negotiate Czechoslovakia's future.

The talks produced harsh moments, he said. "When my colleagues read out the draft to me before the signing ceremony, I told them: 'Look, you know me. You know my temperament. I cannot guarantee that once I sit down and face them across a table I'll just sign it. I could ruin everything. I may not be able to control myself. That's the danger.'"

"They kept saying, 'calm down, calm down.' I know now they had been giving me sedatives — not injections, but tablets, vitamins and other sedatives that would make me amenable and keep me happy," Dubcek said.

He denied that he was given any injections, as the "invasion" film claimed. The film showed Dubcek losing his temper, telling Brezhnev that negotiations were a waste of time and that Soviet leaders were blind to their own faults.

"By standing up against them and adopting a position which I knew they couldn't possibly accept, I set out to create an atmosphere which would force them to break off, which is what happened, as the film shows, they left the hall, the document was unsigned, and a total split opened up," he said.

Despite Havel's expressed confidence in the stability of a democratic reunified Germany, Czechoslovak officials have also said that Poland's concerns about the integrity of its postwar borders with Germany should be taken into account.

Havel, who was elected in December 1989 after the downfall of the communist government and agreed to stay on only until free elections are held, said in an NBC television

interview today that he would consider remaining President beyond the elections if asked.

"I would accept only if I were really certain that it's unavoidable and that I will serve my country and it is the only solution," he said.

Havel offered yesterday to eat just soup for lunch to help cut Canadian government spending after making a plea for help to build a strong democracy and strong economy for his country.

Govt is secure

Romania miners return

BUCHAREST, Feb 20, (Reuters) Romanian miners returned to the provincial coal fields today apparently convinced that the government is, for the moment at least, secure.

About 4,000 miners, incensed by Sunday's ransacking of the ruling National Salvation Front headquarters, descended on Bucharest last night.

Declaring their unwavering support for President Ion Iliescu they threatened to remain in the capital until convinced the government was under no further threat from "anti-revolutionary" elements.

A miners' delegation held emotion-charged talks with Iliescu and other front leaders and emerged two hours later to tell their colleagues that it was now safe to return to their home town of Petrosani, 400 km (250 miles) west of the capital.

Today Bucharest was buzzing with rumours that gangs of miners had broken away from the main group during the night and roamed the city in search of those responsible for Sunday's attack on the Front headquarters.

Deputy Prime Minister Gelu Voicila was roughed up by the anti-government protesters.

A Reuters correspondent who was with the miners last night saw small groups challenging passers-by. But the miners were clearly intent on



Coalminers demonstrate in Romania. (Reuters wirephoto)

exchanges of views, not blows. Police said that a man pulled a knife outside the Front headquarters and was disarmed by miners. The man was banded over to troops guarding the building and was being questioned by police.

Government officials and spokesman for the opposition Peasants Party and the National Liberal Party said they were unaware of any other incidents.

China fails to stop dissident

China fails to prevent an exiled leader of last June's ill-fated democracy demonstrations from addressing the UN human rights commission and making a sharp new condemnation of Beijing's policies.

Wuer Kaibi charged that "systematic violations of human rights" continue in his native country and urged the international community to keep a close watch on the situation there.

The 22-year-old Wuer, who is continuing his studies in the United States, told the 43-nation panel that underground resistance networks are still trying to organise themselves in major Chinese cities.

"We believe that the measures taken in Beijing after the lifting of the martial law are nothing but an attempt to dismantle and eradicate this type of organisation," he said.

At the same time, the massive campaign of arbitrary arrests and executions launched in June — most of them secret — has not yet ceased," he stated.

As soon as Wuer began his statement, the Chinese delegate to the commission asked for the floor on a point of order and protested his presence.

Zagreb radio said three policemen were wounded when shooting broke out in a clash between security forces and Albanians in Urosevac. Police used teargas to disperse Albanian demonstrators in the town yesterday.

Tanjug said protests flared in the province with Albanians staging strikes and pupils boycotting classes. Serbian children also kept away from schools and their parents did not show up for work, fearing ethnic clashes.

Lithuania set to split

Mojaddidi denies hand in Tajik unrest

MOSCOW, Feb 20, (Agencies) The Lithuanian Communist Party has set independence for the Baltic republic as its main goal and pledged to work for international recognition of a free Lithuania, the official Tass news agency said today.

In a statement adopted yesterday and transmitted by Tass today, the Lithuanian party also confirmed its decision Dec 20 to split from the Soviet Communist Party and form the first independent Republican Party in Soviet history.

"The Communist Party of Lithuania views as its chief objective the restoration of an independent Lithuanian state and the ensuring of its international recognition," the statement said.

Though the party had moved toward backing Lithuanian independence in the new law on secession Mikhail Gorbachev promised during his visit last month.

Lithuanian Communist Party leader Algirdas Brazauskas yesterday called for negotiations with the Kremlin to turn his republic into an independent, neutral state.

The aim of these negotiations must be the establishment of permanent neutrality, legislation of mutually advantageous trade relations, borders, customs and tariffs and foreign relations," Brazauskas said.

This must be understood not as an expression of separatism or a revision of borders but as the restoration of legal statehood," he said in a speech to the party Central Committee broadcast on the republic's radio.

Lithuania and the neighbouring Baltic republics Estonia and Latvia were independent states between the two world wars, but were absorbed into the Soviet Union after the Red Army moved in during 1940.

The Lithuanian leader said the talks should start "in the near future," adding that decisions on achieving independence would be taken by the new, democratically-elected Lithuanian Parliament, due to be chosen on Saturday.

The Soviet Parliament is expected to begin discussion in the next few days of a draft law which for the first time lays out conditions under which Lithuania, or the country's other 15 constituent republics, can leave the union.

Romualdas Ozalas, a member of the Lithuanian party's ruling bureau, predicted in an interview with Reuters on Sunday that the Parliament would vote to secede before the end of the year.

Afghan rebel leader Sibghatullah Mojaddidi denied today that the mujahadeen were fomenting violence in the Soviet Union's southern Muslim republics.

"The Russians are blaming us for the uprising in their Muslim areas, but the movement of Azeris and Tajiks is part of the worldwide struggle against communism," he said.

Mojaddidi, president of the rebel government in exile in Pakistan, said to an interviewer he knew of no weapons supplied by the mujahadeen crossing the Oxus River into Soviet Tajikistan.

"The Afghans by themselves are in a miserable condition," he said. "They have not yet liberated their country. How can they be helping others?"

"There is no reason for that," said another Afghan leader, Syed Ahmad Gailani. "When the Soviets were in Afghanistan that would have been a good reason to irritate them but not now."

Gailani, said the Soviet Union could only blame itself if arms or other material were still being smuggled.

They are pouring thousands and thousands of tonnes of war material into Afghanistan. If some of it slips back into the Soviet Union what harm will that do," he said.

Soviet troops completed their pullout from Afghanistan a year ago, but Moscow continues to support the Karzai government by sending massive quantities of weapons and food by road and air.

Radical rebel leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar is widely held responsible for much of the smuggling across Afghanistan's northern border but is reluctant to talk about it.

This border cannot be controlled by the Soviets now," he said. "If the Soviets continue their interference such things will happen although we need peace and friendship with our neighbouring countries."

Authorities lengthened a night curfew in Nagorno-Karabakh after a bomb exploded on a bus injuring 15 passengers, the official news agency Tass said.

Tass said the 15 were wounded when an explosive device planted on board the bus blew up as it travelled through the Askerani district of the disputed Azerbaijan region on Sunday.

The entire Azerbaijani delegation to the national legislature was pulled out of a session yesterday after the defence minister refused to accept blame for deaths in a military crackdown on an Azerbaijani nationalist uprising, sources said.

The dramatic walkout by the approximately 15-member delegation occurred in a closed-door Kremlin session of the Supreme Soviet called to discuss the Azerbaijani-Armenian dispute over Nagorno-Karabakh and ethnic clashes resulting from it.

Mikhail Gorbachev's perestroika reforms have forced politicians to close up their plush digs.

The government has decided that the country's current and former leaders — except for President Gorbachev and Premier Nikolai Ryukov — are no longer entitled to privileges such as country houses.

The Supreme Soviet legislature today called for a crackdown on illegal demonstrations and urged authorities to exercise tight control over permitted rallies, the Tass news agency said.



A Nepali doctor at a Kathmandu hospital treats one of the wounded in riots. (Reuters wirephoto)



Army scout cars take up position at a central Kathmandu stadium Feb 19. (Reuters wirephoto)

Protest snowballs

Three Nepalis shot dead

KATMANDU, Feb 20, (Agencies) Police shot dead three protesters in a Nepali village today, the third day of an unprecedented campaign of anti-government protests in the Himalayan kingdom.

State-run Radio Nepal said police had to open fire in the village of Jaddukuba, on the country's narrow Terai plain bordering India, when a crowd attacked a police station and ignored warnings to disperse.

The deaths bring the toll in three days of confrontation between the authorities and supporters of banned political parties to at least nine.

The Nepal government has vowed to thwart the campaign for open political activity.

Political parties, banned in 1960, have gone on functioning informally and have united for the first time to launch demonstrations and strikes against the country's partyless system of elected council.

Today, the country's lawyers held a 24-hour strike, alleging civil-rights infringements and human-rights leader Devendra Raj Pandey urged police to use more restraint.

Pandey, acting president of the human rights organisation of Nepal, said: "The most important concern to us is the violent turn the movement has taken, precipitated by the government itself."

"This is the beginning of the

movement and if this is how the government behaves we are in for a very, very difficult situation in the days ahead."

He said his organisation had a list of names and addresses of at least 1,600 people who had been detained.

A government spokesman said Pandey's figure of detainees was exaggerated and that only 764 people were being held in connection with the campaign.

The government says that Nepal's partyless system is better suited to the country than multiparty democracy.

In the Kathmandu valley town of Bhaktapur, where three people died yesterday, protesters demanding that police release the bodies for cremation held sporadic demonstrations today.

Residents said the army was patrolling the outskirts of Bhaktapur. The government spokesman confirmed there were "very small" demonstrations in Bhaktapur but dismissed reports of an army presence as "absolutely false."

The army had not been deployed against demonstrators anywhere in Nepal, he said.

Political sources said there were other disturbances in the remote western hill towns of Baglung and Kaski.

Political analysis said many villages in Nepal, one of the world's 10 poorest countries, had become hostile to local councils,

which they accuse of misappropriating development funds.

Students said they were boycotting classes on at least five campuses in the Kathmandu valley.

The government spokesman said: "Students are not attending classes out of fear there may be some violence."

In the centre of Kathmandu, workmen were repairing a statue of King Mahendra, father of Nepal's current absolute monarch King Birendra.

Students tore tiles from the base of the monument during Sunday's protests, a rare act of defiance in Nepal, whose monarchs are widely revered as descendants of the Hindu God Vishnu.

Opposition leaders, who called a largely successful general strike yesterday, said their next major protest was planned for Sunday. They have called on people to wear black armbands, carry black flags and join processions.

Opposition leader Ganesh Man Singh, under house arrest since Saturday, said today the pro-democracy movement will not rest until the Himalayan kingdom of Nepal has free elections.

Singh said the banned Nepali Congress Party does not want to dismantle the monarchy system but, "the King has been the writing on the wall. That is why the government has resorted to violence."

'Uphold refugee rights'

Pope appeals in Lent message

VATICAN CITY, Feb 20, (AP) Pope John Paul II today called on the international community to guarantee the human rights of refugees and urged greater material assistance to keep up with the growing wave.

"The enormous and increasing flow of refugees is a painful reality which no longer touches only certain regions of the world, but extends to every continent," John Paul said in his annual Lenten message, devoted this year to refugees.

John Paul said Roman Catholics should show an "open mind and a warm heart" to refugees noting the conditions of insecurity in which they live with only a small number able to return home.

"Considering the extent and seriousness of the problem, all the church's members must be sensitive to this appeal, inasmuch as they are followers of Jesus — who himself experienced the condition of a refugee," the Pope said.

He called for a "careful examination of conscience" regarding attitudes toward exiles and refugees. He also emphasised that "universally recognised human rights" must be guaranteed to refugees.

The Pope said refugees had the right to establish a family and be reunited with relatives, to work at a fair salary, to housing "fit for human beings" and to adequate education and health care.

John Paul asked international organisations, Catholic groups and other social agencies to increase assistance, saying present resources are inadequate, and said the refugees needed to assist one another.

Weather

FAIR weather with light variable to light northeasterly wind.
State of sea: slight
High water: 11.00 am, 7.00 pm
Low water: 4.00 am, 2.00 pm
Sunrise: 6.23 am
Sunset: 5.41 pm
Maximum temperatures recorded:
Kuwait: 20°C 68°F
Ahmad: 18°C 64°F
Falka: 18°C 64°F
Minimum temperatures recorded:
Kuwait: 7°C 45°F
Ahmad: 10°C 50°F
Falka: 10°C 50°F
Maximum temperatures expected:
Kuwait: 21°C 70°F
Ahmad: 19°C 66°F
Falka: 19°C 66°F
Maximum humidity recorded:
Kuwait: 71 per cent
Ahmad: 75 per cent
Falka: 37 per cent

Yugoslav leaders order troops to crush unrest in Kosovo

BELGRADE, Feb 20, (Reuters) Yugoslavia's state presidency ordered troops into action today to quell ethnic unrest in the southern province of Kosovo, where at least 27 people have been killed in riots this month.

"The Yugoslav presidency has decided... to engage units of the Yugoslav army in Kosovo to protect constitutional order and prevent violence," said an official statement quoted by Tanjug news agency.

Kosovo's Albanian majority has been demanding for the resignation of local leaders, free elections and greater autonomy from the republic of Serbia.

The decision to order the troops into action was taken at a crisis meeting of the eight-member collective head of state after Albanians and their Serbian rivals staged fresh demonstrations in Kosovo.

The state presidency, composed of represen-

tatives of the country's eight regions, is supreme commander of the army and has the power to declare a state of emergency.

The army has staged a show of force in Kosovo with tanks and fighter planes patrolling the province but has not taken part in putting down riots.

Police fired tear gas to disperse thousands of Albanian demonstrators in at least two Kosovo towns today.

Mediation relieves Turkey-Bulgaria tension

Kuwaiti efforts sincere: Shahin

KUWAIT, Feb 20, (Kuna): A top foreign ministry official revealed here today that efforts by Kuwait eliminated the high possibility for confrontation between Bulgaria and Turkey over the issue of Muslim minority in Bulgaria.

Speaking in Cairo in an exclusive interview with a

Kuwaiti newspaper, Foreign Undersecretary Sulaiman M. Al-Shahin said "sincere Kuwaiti efforts were able to contain the problem" between Ankara and Sofia, noting that the fruitful efforts would not have been successful without the "personal relationship between His Highness the Amir (of Kuwait) and

the leaders of the two countries." Last year, His Highness the Amir, in his capacity as current chairman of the Organisation of Islamic Conference, announced an initiative calling for efforts to end hostilities between Bulgaria and Turkey.

The initiative was met with desires from both sides to talk about the issue and work out a settlement.

Settlement

Top officials from both countries in addition to several Kuwaiti officials met in Kuwait twice last year and early this year. The meetings will continue until all hanging issues pertinent to the

problem are resolved.

Shahin disclosed that Kuwait and Bulgaria worked out an agreement in principle during last year's visit of the Amir to Bulgaria and when the crisis was at its peak. The agreement, which he did not give more details about, was not announced previously.

Kuwait, Jordan stress on unity among Arabs

Second round of talks

AMMAN, Feb 20, (Kuna): Visiting Kuwaiti Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed today held a round of talks with his counterpart Marwan Al Qassim in continuation of his talks with King Hussein here yesterday.

Well informed sources told Kuna that both sides stressed on the need for consultations between Arab leaders to crystallise a united Arab stance in respect of pan-Arab issues.

in that war-torn Arab state.

In respect of the Iraq-Iran conflict, they voiced the need to activate negotiations to end it and establish a just and permanent peace between both countries, the sources said.

They added that both sides also touched on bilateral relations and ways to boost such ties in all fields.

Sheikh Sabah also briefed his Jordanian counterpart on results of his talks in Baghdad two days ago.

Sheikh Sabah also met with the Jordanian Prime Minister Mudhar Badran and reviewed bilateral relations and other issues of mutual concern.

An official Jordanian source said the talks covered the current developments in both Arab and international arenas as well as ways to boost joint Arab work to reach a unified stance on issues of concern to the Arab world.

Sheikh Sabah elaborated on the dangers of the Jews immigra-

tion to the occupied Arab territories and expressed the need to hold an Arab summit to discuss challenges facing the Arab nation.

Badran for his part stressed that the Jews immigration is a violation of human rights and comes at a time when a final settlement for the Arab-Israeli conflict was not reached yet.

Badran emphasised the need for a co-ordinated Arab stance and enhanced efforts to confront such a threat.

Prominence

The call for an Arab summit by Sheikh Sabah to discuss challenges facing the Arab world was given prominence in Jordanian media today.

Sheikh Sabah who arrived here yesterday carrying a message from HH the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah to King Hussein called on the Arabs to reconsider the impact of Soviet Jews on Arab national security.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Amiri audience

KUWAIT, Feb 20, (Kuna): HH the Amir today received HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah.

HH also received a message from President of Tunisia Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

The message was delivered by Tunisian ambassador to Kuwait.

Pak envoy

KUWAIT, Feb 20, (Kuna): Minister of Commerce and Industry Faisal Abdul Razak Al Khalid today received at his office Pakistani Ambassador to Kuwait Zaid Sayed.

Khalid and his guest exchanged views on bilateral trade and economic relations in addition to the issue of importing "basmati" rice from Pakistan.

Ghaidi leaves

KUWAIT, Feb 20, (Kuna): Secretary-General of the Organisation of Islamic Conference Dr Hamid Al Ghaidi left here last evening after a brief visit to Kuwait.

During his stay here, Dr Ghaidi presented a token gift to HH the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah, Chairman of the OIC current session, on the occasion of the organisation's 20th anniversary of its establishment.

He also presented two similar gifts to HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah and Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed, received on his behalf by State Minister for Foreign Affairs Saud Al Ossaimi.

Omani visit

TEHRAN, Feb 20, (Kuna): Omani State Minister for Foreign Affairs Youssef Bin Alawi Bin Abdullah today starts an official visit to Iran.

Iran news agency (Irna) said Abdullah whose visit comes within cordial relations between the two countries, will confer with Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati on bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest.

Deadest peace

TEHRAN, Feb 20, (Reuters): A UN spokesman yesterday told a visiting Soviet broadcast official that settlement by Soviet Jews in the Israeli-occupied territories hampers Middle East peace prospects.

The official Gulf News Agency said Prime Minister Sheikh Khalifa Bin Sulman Al Khalifa voiced his concern to Igor Rastvorov, head of Soviet TV and radio for the Middle East.

"The Jewish emigration to occupied Arab lands brings us deep concern because of its negative impact on peace efforts in the region," the agency quoted Sheikh Khalifa as saying.

Fashion fair

KUWAIT, Feb 20, (Kuna): Assistant Undersecretary of Commerce and Industry Ali Abdullah Saqr inaugurates tomorrow the Kuwait exhibition for summer fashions at the international fair grounds.

The number of Bahraini and East Asian companies in addition to 100 local companies will participate in this event.

The exhibition will include a show of spring and summer fashionable readymade clothes for men, women, infants besides various dressing materials, accessories, leader materials such as shoes, purses and other fashion materials.



Paaet student delegation

Dean of Students and Trainees Affairs at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training, Hesham Al Mutawa received a student delegation from the authority's colleges. The delegation was on a leave to Tunisia from Jan 29 until Feb 6, 1990 organised by the Social and Scouts Activity Section at the authority.

The delegation included a total of 22 students in addition to the delegation head Amal Al Fouzan and supervisor, Nadeya Al Doub.

The reception was also attended by the assistant student affairs dean, Khaled Al Eraihan and the head of the Sports Activity Section Ali Al Mutawa.

The delegation supervisor presented the dean with gifts presented by the scientific establishment in Tunisia.

Packet switch system to general public soon

Sharhan at Info exhibition

By Khaled Ahmed

THE Minister of Communications, Abdullah Abdul Mohsen Al Sharhan has announced that the ministry intends to introduce a new service which will give subscribers the opportunity to transfer information through the packet switch method.

He added that with this new service subscribers will be able to directly communicate with international data bank networks and obtain any type of general, personal, historical, technical or technological information.

After opening the 1990 Info Exhibition at the International Fair Grounds in Mishrif, Sunday, he added that the ministry will generalise the magnetic card international telephone experiment. The first step of this experiment will witness 14 devices placed at different commercial complexes and co-operative societies in addition to the fixed lines which will include connecting 100 devices.

The minister stressed that initial experimentation on the magnetic card mechanical international telephone system achieved great success and was highly commended by all subscribers. He said that the new experiment will ease up the present tension on international telephone services and will make the job of international operators easier.

With respect to international call fees in Kuwait, Sharhan explained that the Ministry of Communications has cut down these charges to most countries since Nov. 1988 and special rates were implemented for night and day calls as also calls conducted during official holidays. He pointed out that the ministry has cut down the fees of some international calls by up to fifty per cent.

Fees

Setting up fees with other countries is linked to several matters mainly adhering to bilateral agreements, otherwise the ministry indicates fees according to the country at the other end of the line in order to ensure the rights of both sides, Sharhan said.

Reconsidering charges

A LOCAL daily has reported that the government has requested some service ministries to reconsider their existing charges on certain services.

The paper, quoting reliable government sources, said that this step was aimed at reducing pressure on citizens. Charges will be confined to the minimum in a manner that would fulfil the reason for the imposition of charges, so that no extra financial burdens would be encountered by people of limited-income.

The source said that this step would also include the reduction of charges on traffic transactions and the cancellation of others, adding that an official decision would soon be issued to this effect which also would cancel the charges imposed on shades, a matter of controversial nature.

Sharhan added that Kuwait government and the management of Kuwait International Exhibition pays special attention holding Info exhibition each year. He praised the level of the exhibition and the efforts of workers in making it a great success.

He expressed happiness at witnessing the large number of local companies participating in the exhibition. He pointed out that it is important to exert more efforts in the Arabisation of computer systems stressing that more Kuwaiti youths should follow up such developments in the field in order to keep up with the technology of advanced countries.

Praise

He praised efforts made in setting up the Ministry of Communications section at the exhibition stressing the ministry's keenness towards informing the public of the services it provides.

The minister added that the exhibition is considered a good chance for development, pointing out that several government ministries and companies have adopted computer applications but added that such transformation is yet premature and requires more time to reach idealism.

He indicated that more emphasis should be put into training youths on how to deal with this technology. He explained that the Info exhibition is important to spread computer culture among youth and visitors.

Comparing the Kuwaiti computer market with other Arab and international markets, the minister said that the local market is highly advanced compared with Arab computer markets at the same time it matches other international markets.

With regards to the ministry issue on not distributing telephone devices among new subscribers, the minister indicated that due to the great variety of these devices in the local market, the ministry is unable to provide all of these kinds and models. He added that subscribers have the option to either buy their telephone devices from the ministry or the local market.

Perrier testing

THE Undersecretary of Public Health Minister Dr Naeel Al Naqeeh has said that the relevant ministry personnel are testing different samples of the French mineral water Perrier.

He told a local daily that WHO had notified the ministry that no official information had been received on the alleged contamination of the French mineral water, adding that any information regarding this summer would be promptly supplied to the ministry in time.

Death by accidents lower in '89: Eidan

THE director general of the General Traffic Administration (GTA) Brigadier Abdul Hameed Al Hajjmet with the board of the driving school headed by Brigadier Fuad Musaed Al Saleh at the premises of the school. The meeting reviewed the work plan of the school and its various training and educational programme and the board expressed its readiness to benefit from experience of GTA to make these programmes successful.

The board stressed that the school will work very hard to graduate qualified drivers.

Meanwhile, the director of planning department at the GTA Col. Abdullah Al Eidan said that 1989 witnessed 5 per cent reduction in deaths caused by road accidents compared to 1988.

He told Kuna that 304 persons died in road accidents in 1989 against 321 in 1988. The majority of casualties in 1989 were reported at Hawalli and Farwaniya governorates. Col. Al Eidan added that 20,384 road accidents were reported in Kuwait last year in which 304 persons were killed, 969 persons were seriously injured and 1997 were slightly injured.

He added that main cause of traffic accidents in Kuwait refers to the human factor and to violation of traffic regulations and rules. He added that drivers who do not abide by the safety and security rules and systems increase the number of road accidents. He added that incomes of GTA reached about KD 5.5 million last year.

Eidan pointed out that the Capital governorate reported 4,890 accidents last year in which 34 persons were killed, 143 were seriously injured and 453 were slightly injured. Most deaths there were reported at Dasmia area but most collisions were reported in the Shuwaikha area.

He added that 10,118 road accidents were also reported in Hawalli and Farwaniya governorates last year (before separation to two different governorates) in which 136 persons were killed, 425 were seriously injured and 846 were slightly injured. Most deaths and injuries were reported in Khaitan area while most of collision accidents were reported in the Salmiya area.

Col. Al Eidan pointed out that the Capital governorate reported 28,540 accidents in 1989 in which 67 persons were killed, 187 had serious injuries and 434 were slightly injured.

Citizens hope for a livelier decade

ALL relative signs indicate that the current decade is going to witness major events throughout the world and would affect all sections and levels of society.

To evaluate the ramifications of such an upheaval, a local daily polled the opinion of a cross-section of citizens.

Khalil Al Shatti, deputy chief technician at Ibn Sina Hospital said that the European continent will be unified by 1992 and will then pose a unified front of immense consequences as opposed to the GCC council, which even after a period of 10 years has failed to open its market to citizens of these countries and to agree to a unified customs tariff among member states. He hoped that the current decade will witness a qualitative shift in the GCC march.

Emad Al Saleh, systems analyst called for reactivating of foreign investments and diversifying national income resources. He said that he would like to see Kuwait clean bygienically during the current decade and is looking forward to see the Kuwaiti individuals enjoying the highest income in the world as previously.

Mohammad Abdullah, a planning engineer at Kuwait Oil Company called for conducting an academic and social study on the effect of the information media, including TV and radio on the behaviour of viewers and setting up appropriate alternatives to enhance these services. He also called for encouraging Kuwaiti investments in the Arab and Islamic countries and called for minimising foreign manpower — particularly those from East Asia.

Bader Al Masad called for strict parental control over their children and said that about 80 per cent of juvenile cases had been attributed to a lack of parental supervision.

Co-ordination

Abdullatif Al Hashem called for co-ordination between the Kuwait University and the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (Paaet) towards studying the needs for employing graduates in various avenues. He said that there are plenty of graduates who cannot find employment commensurate with their specialisations and a study should be undertaken to determine the needs of each specialisation in the market.

Khalifa Al Ghanem, a teacher at the Ministry of Education has called for improving the performance at the state's different authorities including: Passports and Immigration Department, Traffic Department, Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour and local banks. He specifically commented that these institutions should receive the transaction of citizens by mail to avoid red tape and save time.

He further suggested that the waiting period for government housing should be minimised during this decade from ten to five years.

Other general opinions on several topics suggested that the Consumers Protection Department at Kuwait's Ministry of Commerce and Industry should impose a strict control on prices of commodities. A pictorial news agency, identical to Magazine D'Actualite should be instituted, alongwith lifting the censorship of the local press.

Specifically in relation to Kuwait University, the general consensus was that the officials had previously announced that the new university would be ready by the beginning of 1990, but no final outcome has yet been announced. Those polled said that there is no specific system governing Kuwaiti appointments in the private sectors and it is essential to set up such a system if the Kuwaitisation process is to be seriously tackled.



US food promotion

US Ambassador Wilson Nathaniel Howell samples food at a promotion he opened Monday at the Kuwait Sheraton.

Baccarat's artistic development over the centuries

BACCARAT is known and appreciated for the perfection of its crystal, the grace of its designs and the finish of its production. In order to keep this tradition, the company had to develop its artistic sense.

In 1825, the "flat cut" pattern was launched with the well-known Harcourt pattern, which is still in fashion.

Up to 1835, glasses were quite sober in design and cut patterns were generally simple. Fashionable glassware was fairly plain with flat bases and straight sides. The design style was very apparent.

As changed after the 1839 exhibition and became more elaborate, copied from

the Middle Ages and the Renaissance. Coloured glass came into fashion and crystal chandeliers appeared on the market.

The end of the Louis Philippe and second Empire eras was marked by a certain preoccupation for bourgeois comfort. Baccarat amazed everyone by some incredible creations: huge vases, a fountain 7 metres high, a chandelier with 140 candles, candelabra 5 metres high. Apart from these grandiose productions, Baccarat also created simpler articles, both practical and delightful.

The first balloon-shaped glasses were launched in 1849 — the predecessors of all wine-tasting glasses.

The fashion for elaborate and deeply-cut glasses developed around 1870 and reached its peak at the International Exhibition at Nancy in 1909. Styles then gradually became simpler and the International Exhibition of Decorative Art in 1925 marked an important step in this direction. The taste for simplicity and stylisation continued until 1939.

After the war, Baccarat took part in the "Art of Glass" Exhibition where crystal reigned supreme due to masterpieces created by the artist Georges Chevalier.

From 1958, the company showed pieces signed by such well-known artists and sculptors as: Salvador Dali, August, G. Chevalier, Gilioli, Guadagnucci, Taumi de

Lesseps, N. Negréanu, Robert Rigot, laureate of the Prix de Rome, Roberto Sambonet, K. de Souza, Tabacoff, Truex, Yan Zoritchak and his collaborators.

In 1972, Baccarat's master craftsmen achieved one of their most brilliant artistic and technical feats. The company received first prize in the International Design Competition held at Lisbon, with Robert Rigot's "From Earth to the Moon," and the Oscar known as "Prestige de la France."

Baccarat does not hesitate to follow modern tendencies by the creation of new pieces, while remaining faithful to the classicism which made the company famous.



Thieves arrested

A LEBANESE national has reported that his residence was broken into and KD 4000 stolen, including 860 Lbanese pounds, 2,500 Iraqi dinars, and 600 Jordanian dinars.

The man told Hawalli government security men that he suspected three men of Jordanian nationality.

Upon arresting the suspects, a map to the residence of the victim was found with one, who said during questioning that he and the other two suspects did actually break into the flat and take the money.

AN EGYPTIAN national has reported to the Salmiya police station that his Filipina housemaid has made telephone calls to her family in the Philippines to the amount of KD 1,890 within three months.

The matter was referred to the relevant investigative authorities.

هنا من الزوار



Arab Times Bingo winners

The winners of the Arab Times Bingo No. 75 received their cash prizes at the Arab Times office yesterday. The first prize of KD100 went to Cajetan Coasco (who did not come for the prize). The second full-house prize of KD60 was won by Fakhraddin Barkat and the third full house went to Ritusree Ray. Top line was claimed by Ronald D'Souza and Four Corners went to C.V. Mathew, who received KD25 each. Picture shows (left to right) Ritusree, Ronald and Fakhraddin. Game No. 76 will be announced shortly. Watch out for details in the Arab Times.

National corporation for projects may be set up

Cut red tape, says Houti

By Hussain Salmeh

KUWAIT'S Minister of Public Works, Abdul Rahman Al Houti has called for adopting a new flexible system aimed at accelerating designing and implementation of major projects as the current system hinders the progress of projects in view of red tape.

Speaking in an exclusive interview with the Arab Times, Al Seyassah, the official said that red tape is represented in the form of numerous authorities whose approval is necessary prior to the designing and implementation process of the projects.

He called for setting up of a national corporation, capable of executing local projects instead of resorting to foreign expertise, adding that this requires that

local contractors should financially and administratively upgrade their capabilities.

The minister acknowledged that the ministry in the past was lenient with contractors, but, presently it is very firm, and disclosed that the Central Tenders Committee (CTC) is playing a significant role in this connection. He added that contractors who have not abided by their commitments on a project, will be debarred from participating in future ministry projects.

Elucidating, he said that the ministry resorts to revoking projects from contractors in very rare cases. However, when such action is taken, the contractors' equipments on site are also confiscated and the incomplete works will be awarded to new contractors. Where the contrac-

tor was given an extension of time for completion of the contract, it was on the clear understanding that no future projects will be awarded to him.

Facilities

A case in point, the official said was the proposed flyover on the Fahad Expressway opposite Mishref area. In this instance, the contractor who was awarded the project could not fulfill his commitments as his financial stand- ing was inadequate to complete the project.

Speaking of the projects in the Capital, Houti said that he appreciated the feelings of citizens in view of the problems they are facing in respect to rain drainage, sanitary and sewage and said that 70 per cent of these

facilities have been completed. He added that by the end of this year, all relevant contracts will be completed.

However, he clarified that there are other projects to be implemented in the Capital in co-operation with Kuwait Municipality such as Al Gharabally Market, Al Silah Market and the vegetable, fish and meat markets in addition to organising some inter-building squares.

He said that these facilities will be constructed in the Capital as the government represented by the Higher Housing Council presided over by HH the Crown Prince and Premier are planning to implement some housing projects at the Capital. He disclosed that the National Housing Authority (NHA) will submit its proposals in this connection to

HH the Crown Prince and Premier.

The completion of the water-front project will cost over KD20 million and expected to be completed during the forthcoming five-year-plan, the official said.

Houti said that a new flyover will be constructed at the junction of the Fifth Ring Road with Mohammed Ben Al Qasem Street and another at the junction of the Fifth Road with Al Ghazali Street as these locations suffer from traffic congestions. He added that the construction of flyovers have proved successful in solving traffic congestions.

Speaking of administrative developments, Houti said that the ministry paid special concern to this issue and the nomination process for leading posts had been completed.

KFAS embarks on encyclopaedia

Trial run encouraging

By Lina Al Khalefawi
Arab Times staff

DISTORTED and incomplete information in some children's books is not only unconvincing to the child's formative queries, but could contribute to unsubstantiated and often erroneous basis of the learning process, according to Dr Abdul Rahman Al Ahmed, Dean of the Faculty of Education at Kuwait University.

Ahmed who is head of the translation department at Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science (KFAS), said it is not an easy job to mould the character of the child anywhere.

Education is one such means, but it is not enough to shape the child's character, particularly if the surrounding environment does not provide the right atmosphere and incentives to eschew the habit of reading.

He added that in the Arab world, the habit of reading does not exist and to encourage the habit of reading means providing interesting material and information for children in the six to twelve year age bracket.

Project

Ahmed said that encyclopaedias in the field of publication have come to be well accepted by academics, peers and those interested in developing their particular areas of specialisations. In continuation of this trend, KFAS have embarked on a project to bring about an encyclopaedia specifically tailored and designed to enhance the knowledge of children in the field of studies and general information.

Ahmed, who is also the Head of Editorial of Kuwait Scientific Encyclopaedia for Children said that entries with proper Arabic language and coloured illustrations makes information interesting and easier for children to assimilate.

Studies concerning the encyclopaedia began from 1979 until 1983. A library including Arabic and international encyclopaedia, educational books was the backbone of information of these volumes. These books and information have been thoroughly studied and analysed. Scientific methodologies were utilised with the aid of the computer to bring about the final version of the encyclopaedia. A style manual was used as a guidance for all specialised writers to prepare entries.

The first volume comprises 131 entries, the second includes 123 and the third, 127.

The entries were made easy following alphabets in Arabic. The official said that as a trial run encyclopaedias were distributed among 112 children of 7-9 and 11 years old. The results have been encouraging, the official said.



Power stations opened

Electricity and Water Minister, Dr Homoud Al Rqabah inaugurated yesterday two major power transformer stations in Sabah Al Salem and Jahra areas. The stations are for super high voltage (300 kv). The total cost of the two stations is about KD36 million. Modern hi-tech equipment is employed in the two stations, established to ensure continuous power supplies to Jahra, Sabah Al Salem and neighbouring areas.

Brackish water pipeline to supply Failaka Island

CO-ORDINATED studies are underway among ministries of services and relevant authorities to supply Failaka Island with brackish water from Sibbiya area through two pipelines, the supply of which is intended to be used in afforestation and agricultural projects in the island.

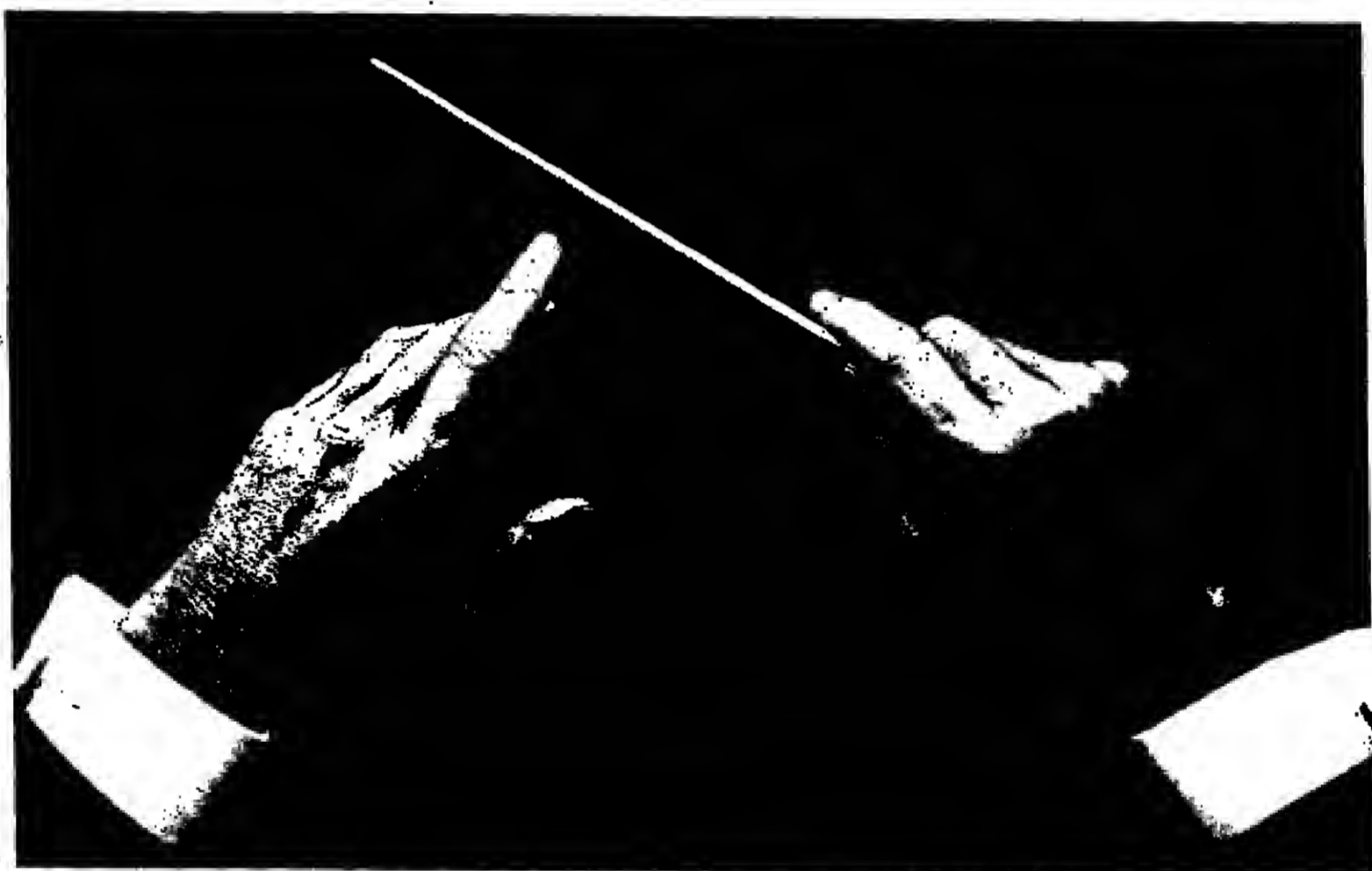
The study is being implemented according to the directives of HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister for the welfare of the citizens of the island and includes several proposals to develop health services and facilitate

transportation of patients and urgent cases to Kuwait City as well as extending transportation services between Kuwait City and Failaka Island until 11.00 pm. The study further aims at developing educational and municipal services in the area.

Relevant authorities are also co-ordinating to begin the establishment of Sheikh Zayed Park at Doha area and afforestation projects round Rawdatam area, Shagaya, Umm Al Qurain, each located on an area measuring one million square metres.

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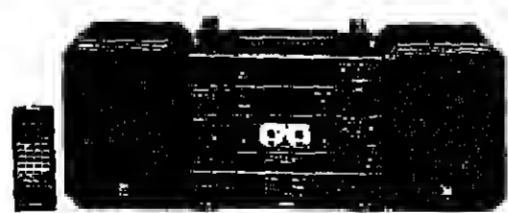
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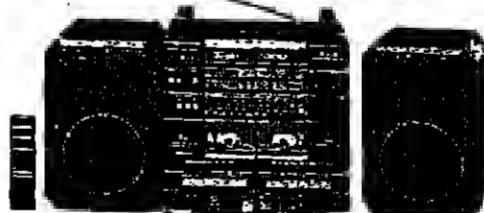
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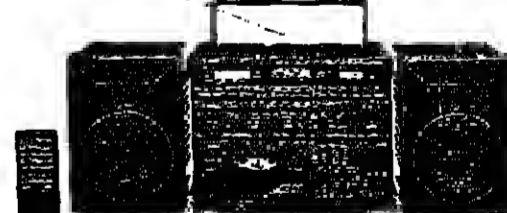
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ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

A SHARP tongue is the only edged tool that grows keener with constant use — Washington Irving, US writer (1783-1859).

Radicals laying foundation Second Jewish state in the offing

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, (Reuters): Radical Israeli settlers in the occupied West Bank are laying the foundations for a second Jewish state with an "army" of vigilante highway patrolmen, self-styled ministers of state and even an ambassador.

Ultra-nationalist settlers have vowed to form an independent "state of Judea" in the West Bank if Israel grants autonomy to their Palestinian neighbours.

The Israeli government and the security forces seem unsure whether to treat the zealots as a security threat or a joke. Police have arrested and interrogated the hard core of state of Judea activists in recent months but released most without charge.

While many Israelis dismiss them as a lunatic fringe, one member of parliament has warned that a Middle East war could be triggered by a single act of sabotage against an Islamic shrine.

In the state of Judea, we won't sacrifice Jewish lives and we won't allow stone-throwing," said Michael Ben-Horin, a dishevelled father of seven and the state of Judea's self-proclaimed president.

Deport
"We would deport every stone thrower. Whoever wants a Palestinian state, he can get it in Jordan," he added.

Ben-Horin has emerged as the leader of the extreme right in Israel since rabbi Meir Kahane's anti-Arab Kach Party was banned from parliament in 1988 for espousing racist views.

Kahane is Judea's honorary ambassador to the United States where he raises funds for the budding nation.

Ben-Horin said he and some 600 followers were organising an army, a police force and even an "absorption ministry" to attract Soviet Jewish immigrants to settle in the new state.

Tiran Pollack heads the "committee for road safety," the state of Judea's paramilitary arm, formed to patrol West Bank roads and retaliate against Palestinian stone-throwers.

Six years ago, Pollack's two younger sisters were killed when Palestinians blew up a Jerusalem bus.

Palestinians in the West Bank said the committee carried out regular vigilante raids in their towns and cities.

Pollack lives in Kiryat Arba, a militant Jewish settlement on the outskirts of the Palestinian town of Hebron, which could become the capital of Judea if the "state" was ever formally established.

There is a nice proverb — "Don't have mercy on your enemy in a time of war," Pollack said.

Israel's Shin Bet secret police have questioned Ben-Horin and Pollack in their investigation of the shadowy Sicari group which has planted explosives in the homes and cars of well-known Israeli leftists.

The group also claimed responsibility for shooting dead an Arab outside Jerusalem's Walled Old City last year.

Avraham Burg, a dovish Labour Party member of parliament, has received death threats from the Sicari.

"One or two crazy people could start a war with a bomb on the Temple Mount," Burg told Reuters.

In the past, Israeli extremists have plotted to blow up Al Aqsa Mosque, Islam's third holiest shrine, just above the Wailing Wall revered by the Jews as the last remnant of the Biblical temple destroyed in 70 AD.

Ben-Horin denies any connection with the Sicari but defends their actions. "I understand them. I wouldn't do it but I understand them," he said.

Objectives shattered

EAST BERLIN, (Reuters): East German dreams of a "third way" between communism and capitalism, which fired the passions of pro-democracy protesters last year, are being shattered by the rush towards one Germany.

Three months after the rallying cry "We are the people" ended 40 years of headline communism, East Germany's new democratic voice is being drowned out by brass West Germany.

"The shape of German unity is clear. It will be an unconditional annexation of East Germany by Bonn," the Green Party said, reflecting a growing suspicion here.

Protesters in Leipzig and Dresden chanted simply "freedom, freedom" in the early days of the revolution. Now they and other East Germans have to come to terms with the kind of freedom that lies ahead.

Subordinating

Some senior West German politicians said this weekend they favoured subordinating East Germany to West Germany rather than drawing up a new joint constitution.

"It would save us the bother of negotiating," Bavarian State President Max Streibl said.

Many people feel Bonn sees East Germany's first free elections on March 18, not as the start of democracy but as a hurdle to cross before it can take over.

Unification on Bonn's terms would not just wipe out East Germany's political sovereignty, it would smother a culture defining the identity of its people.

Forty years of communism have helped shape the East German consciousness and democratic socialism, not free-market capitalism, that was the political credo that shaped opposition to the old Stalinist order.

It was only after the opening of the borders to the West and the promise of free elections that anyone clamoured for unification or idolised West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

Before that, heroes of the dissident movement were figures like German revolutionary Rosa Luxemburg or Marxist writer Bertolt Brecht, hardly soulmates of the conservative Kohl.

Luxemburg, a founder of the German Socialist Party at the turn of the century, had particular significance because for years the Communist Party claimed her as its own despite her belief in pluralism and anti-militarism.

Now many feel politicians in Bonn should heed one of her most famous slogans: "Freedom is always the freedom to think differently."

The West Germans must finally wake up from their complacency and understand that behaving like schoolteachers to other Germans only makes them look ridiculous," said Konrad Weiss, a one-time dissident film maker and now a leading figure in the citizens' movement Democracy Now.

"I don't want a German state that is just the federal republic expanded by a quarter, nor do I want one that is a puffed up GDR."

TODAY IN HISTORY

1613 — Michael Romanov, son of patriarch of Moscow, is elected tsar of Russia, thus founding House of Romanov.

1652 — Treaty of Hildesheim between Sweden and North German Protestant states.

1795 — Dutch surrender Indian Ocean island of Ceylon to British.

1849 — British forces defeat Sikhs at Gujrat in India.

1916 — Battle of Verdun in France begins in World War I — the longest and bloodiest battle of the war with more than one million killed.

1919 — Bavarian premier Kurt Riser is assassinated in Munich.

1922 — British protectorate in Egypt ends.

1934 — French troops combat Berbers in south west Morocco.

1943 — Britain's King George VI awards sword of honour to Russians for defence of Stalingrad in World War II.

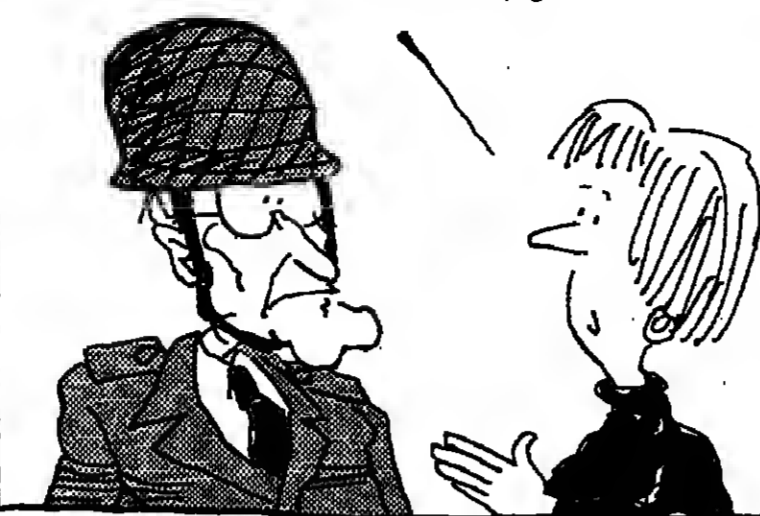
1963 — Soviet Union warns United States that an American attack on Cuba would mean world war.

1975 — 32-member UN Commission on Human Rights, in Geneva, Switzerland, accuses Israel of violating "basic norms of international law" in Arab territories it occupies.

1986 — South Africa government opens "whites only" downtown districts of Johannesburg and Durban to all races — first break with apartheid policy of segregated business areas.

1989 — Muslim rebels fire rockets into Afghanistan capital of Kabul, killing one person and injuring three others.

WHILE SOVIET CITIZENS FORM PARTIES,
YOU CLING TO STAR WARS



WHILE EAST EUROPEANS BUILD VOTING
BOOTH, YOU BUILD B-2 BOMBERS



ISN'T THERE A TIME WHEN WE CAN
STOP SEEING THEM AS A THREAT?!



WHEN THEY ALL REGISTER
AS REPUBLICANS



LDP govt faces uphill task

Avoided issues will come to haunt

TOKYO, (Reuters): Japan's Liberal Democratic Party has conjured up a stable majority in the powerful Lower House but economists and political analysts say the long-time ruling party's real headaches have just begun.

The new LDP government will face a host of tough economic issues that it spent most of the campaign, one of the toughest in its 34-year history, avoiding.

"What was striking about the campaign... is how little of what anybody had to say had to do with the issues Japan has to confront domestically or internationally," Columbia University political science professor Gerald Curtis told reporters in Tokyo.

"The big issues, the tough issues the country faces, everyone ran away from," he said.

Opposition candidates hammered away at the LDP over the Recruit share-for-favours scandal, a three per cent sales tax introduced last April and its alleged betrayal of the farmer by letting in some agricultural products.

The LDP countered by mobilising traditional support groups, casting doubt on the perennial opposition's ability to rule, and spending vast campaign funds supplied by big business.

Such tactics won it a stable majority of 275 seats in Sunday's election, only weeks after some analysts said it might have to call on conservative independents just to cling to a bare majority.

But the new government to be formed by Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu may have little energy to devote to broad policy matters now that the election is over.

Kaifu must find ways to compromise with the opposition parties that dominate Parliament's Upper House while fending off attacks by rivals in his own party who covet his job.

"We'd like the next government to give serious thought to such (economic issues), but I don't think they will have time," said Toshiaki Kakimoto, chief economist at Sumitomo Bank.

First on the list of issues to be confronted by the new government will be tough trade talks with the United States on what Washington says are deep-rooted structural impediments to trade and on alleged barriers to US sales of satellites, wood products and super computers.

Washington has designated those three areas for possible retaliation under the Super 301 clause of the 1988 Trade Act.

The United States agreed to postpone the so-called structural impediment initiative (SII) talks until four days after the election, and experts say Washington now wants real results in return for its patience.

"Obviously the first hurdle Kaifu has to cope with is the talks," said Bank of Tokyo economist Keiichi Honda.

The United States kindly deferred it, so now Mr Kaifu owes much to the American negotiators.

But Japanese officials will have a tough time satisfying US expectations for progress on complaints about such matters as Japanese land policy, its distribution system and savings and investment

imports of foreign rice, made to persuade the critical farm vote not to desert the party in its hour of need, could backfire.

Those pledges must inevitably collide with Japan's stated desire to make the Uruguay round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade talks a success, experts said.

Anxiety over US

Fear syndrome hinders

TOKYO, (Reuters): Fear of offending the United States as trade friction intensifies will prevent Japan's new government from adopting major Asian policy initiatives, Asian diplomats said.

The ruling Liberal Democratic Party retained power with 275 seats in the 512-seat Lower House, shrugging off sex and money scandals and public anger over a consumption tax that cast a shadow over the past 18 months.

"The true with the US is over. Many tough issues have to be tackled this year," one Asian diplomat said.

"This means that Japan will continue to follow US policy closely in Asia and not develop a foreign policy of its own."

Negotiations

The priority is negotiations with the US on trade issues and trying to avoid protectionism. Promises made during the election and opposition control of the Upper House have narrowed Tokyo's negotiating position.

But Japan's neighbours have their own demands to make of the new government.

China wants Japan to move from behind the US shadow and normalise economic relations, frozen to protest a military crackdown on student-led

protest in Beijing last June.

South Korea, for its part, would like Tokyo to help bring hardline North Korea out of isolation and into the international community.

The Soviet Union badly needs Japan's capital and technology to make its "perestroika" modernisation efforts work.

"We hope the new government will further develop the traditional friendship between our neighbour countries and improve relations," a spokesman for the Chinese embassy said.

"The government should restore the third year loan as soon as possible and Japanese firms should be less cautious, invest more in China and not believe inaccurate press reports that say China is unstable," he said.

Progress

A spokesman at the South Korean embassy said his government wanted to open North Korea to the outside world and hoped Tokyo, in close consultation with Seoul, would be more active in helping this process.

It could, for instance, take the initiative in arranging a meeting of the two Koreas, China, the United States, the Soviet Union and Japan as proposed by South Korean President Roh Tae-Woo last year, he said.

LDP elder statesman Shin Kanamaru has asked to visit Pyongyang, a visit that North Korea would be wise to accept, a second Asian diplomat said.

States or Western Europe, so Tokyo should have its own China policy.

Another urgent problem is continuing tension on the Korean peninsula.

There may be movement by the new government toward North Korea, said Tetsuo Komaki, an economist at the Institute of Development Economics.

"The LDP plans to improve relations with Pyongyang and is waiting for a change of attitude on the North Korean side. There will be no rapid change, but relations will improve in a year or two," he added.

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Rice trade is one of many farm issues to be discussed at the multilateral trade talks scheduled to conclude by the end of 1990, and pressure on Tokyo to open up is high.

"The LDP has made an enormous amount of protectionist commitments in the campaign," said Tokai University political scientist Rei Shiratori. "It may be very difficult for the LDP to move."

Letters to the editor

Point of view

SIR: This is a response to Mia Ponzio's letter dated (AT 12.2.1990), which was in response to my previous letter.

I have not strayed from any facts, but have merely looked at them from a different point of view, the brighter side. I don't blame Ponzio for being pessimistic but everyone has the right to see from their own side.

Ponzio says that the hadith quotes "a picture or drawing or sculpture of any living thing (i.e. with a fresh liver) should not be made. And all those who do so are cursed and most hateful creatures of Allah's creation."

This hadith was specifically quoted by the Prophet (PBUH) so that people who make such images and statues would not idol-worship them as was common in that era. It did not mean that people could not take pictures.

There are many things that have two sides and people see only one. eg. Muslims are prohibited from taking many things, but are allowed to take those to save lives. Anything that saves the life of a human being as long as it does not harm him in any additive way is allowed under Islamic laws.

Allow me to quote another hadith, which goes like this: "Any believer who will help his fellow believer in life, God will help him on the day of judgement. Any believer who will hide the sins of a fellow-man in life, God will hide his sins from others on the day of judgement."

From one point of view it is good to hide your fellow human being's sins from others, so he is not shamed for them. But from the other point of view when he commits some heinous and unforgivable crime and has to be brought in front of the law, a Muslim must try his best to bring such a man to justice.

Taking rough statistics, that means at least 3 out of 5 people in the world will go to hell because the world is full of people who have their photographs. Then there are painters, cartoonists, comic-book producers, photographers, cameramen, television, video and movie producers who will all go to hell.

I pity the fate of this world. Speaking of fate, Mia Ponzio also must be having her photograph on her passport. Welcome to the club Mia.

Need I give more examples of pictures used in science, geography, space etc. I hope it is clear now that drawing pictures, or making images and sculptures are banned in order to stop people from worshipping material things and bow their heads to "the one who dwells in heaven and can be seen only by the chosen ones."

Sobah Javed,
Kuwait.

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

هنا من الزمان

Renewed Ethiopia famine feared

WASHINGTON, Feb 20, (AP): The lives of up to five million Ethiopians are at risk because anti-government forces have shut down a port that has been the key entry point for outside food assistance, US officials say.

Further aggravating the situation has been the prospect of severely diminished harvests throughout northern Ethiopia as a result of poor rainfall.

To the west, US officials say a crisis situation is rapidly developing in the Sudan, where a bitter civil war has prevented the transport of relief supplies to rebel-held territory in the southern part of the country.

President George Bush sent a letter to the Sudanese President last week asking for his co-operation in restarting the international relief effort, to which the United States contributes \$15.7 million.

Renewed fighting has led to the suspension of food flights to southern Sudan. The government is preventing the departure of a relief train along a route where food shortages are severe, and the rebels have been blocking relief efforts.

Estimates of the number of Sudanese potentially affected by famine range between one million and three million.

Last year, the government and rebels co-operated with Operation Lifeline Sudan, a UN-led campaign to pre-position food stockpiles, which averted a repeat of the 1988 famine that killed 250,000 Sudanese.

In Ethiopia, the cutoff of relief supplies through Massawa, a deep water port on the Red Sea, affects not only Eritrea province but also Tigray and portions of three other provinces.

"The next six weeks to two months is the critical time," said Andrew Nathan, director of the office of foreign disaster assistance.

"We're trying to explore options for getting the food in," he said.

He added that a "worst nightmare" scenario is developing — a civil war and a famine in the same area at the same time.

A Western relief official told the Washington Post, "If the port is closed for any length of time, then there is the possibility of tragedy in northern Ethiopia."

The situation evokes memories of the 1984-85 period in Ethiopia when more than a million people died, primarily because of drought.

Renewed drought last year in Ethiopia touched off a major international relief programme led by the United States and the European Economic Community, both of which funnel food donations through private voluntary organisations. Other contributing countries include Canada and Australia.

Thus far, the United States has either delivered or pledged more than \$70 million to the relief effort. The figure for the rest of the international community is about \$84 million according to US estimates.

But earlier this month, the Eritrean People's Liberation Front staged one of its most daring assaults in 27 years of warfare with its capture of Massawa and the road leading inland.

Massawa had been entry point for food for the needy in Eritrea and also for provinces further south, including Tigray, where Ethiopia's Marxist government is being challenged by yet another rebel group.

SLA men kill Unifil soldiers

Israel-held responsible

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Feb 20, (Reuters): The United Nations said today it held Israel responsible for the killing of two UN peacekeepers and the wounding of six by pro-Israeli militiamen in southern Lebanon. Spokesman Timor Goksel of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (Unifil) said the UN soldiers, all from Nepal, were hit when the Israeli-armed South Lebanon Army (SLA) fired a mortar bomb at their positions late on Monday.

Security sources in Lebanon said the SLA had not deliberately shot at the Unifil position and was firing at guerrillas.

The peacekeepers' deaths raised the Unifil toll to 172 since the force was created in 1978 to restore order in Lebanon following an Israeli invasion.

In Beirut, a pro-Iranian fundamentalist group said Muslim guerrillas, using mortars, had attacked the SLA.

Goksel said that the only shooting came from the SLA. "It was a fully lighted and marked Unifil position. Everyone knows its location and it has been there a long time. So how come a position that is known to be there is hit by mortar fire?" Goksel told Reuters after touring the area.

"We have no reports of any firing from the other side. We don't know what they were firing at — we will take it up with the IDF (Israel Defence Forces). They are at the ones who give them the ammunition so we have to go to the source," Goksel said.

He said the mortar bomb was one of 15 fired from the SLA's self-declared border security zone inside Lebanon about two kms (1.5 miles) from the Lebanese position at Buynat Sayid.

"One of the 120-mm mortar rounds fell between the two prelab living quarters of the Lebanese forces. The commander, a warrant officer, was killed instantly as well as a soldier on duty. Six were wounded, one of them seriously," Goksel said.

Some Unifil soldiers were asleep at the time while others were fleeing to reinforced shelters because of the firing which

Greater Israel warning

DAMASCUS, Feb 20, (Reuters): Israel's leaders from both sides of the political divide were determined to make permanent their occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, an official Syrian newspaper charged today.

"The Israelis want to evacuate Arabs ... to settle Jewish immigrants," said the daily paper Tishrin.

The paper said Israeli leaders, from Likud's hawkish Ariel Sharon who resigned from the cabinet in protest at Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's "soft" peace moves, to the dovish Labour Party leader Shimon Peres shared the same views towards Arab and Palestinian rights.

"Greater Israel ... remains a firm objective of all Israeli leaders, the paper said.

"If some Arabs are betting on the possibility of an emergence of moderation in the Israeli position they are mistaken."

also included heavy machinegun fire from another SLA position, Goksel said.

About 5,800 troops serve in the nine-nation Unifil force set up to oversee the withdrawal of Israel's 1978 invasion troops and to help the Lebanese government extend its authority to the Israeli border.

Its goals were thwarted by another Israeli invasion in 1982 and the increasing impotence of the Beirut government. Israel withdrew the bulk of its forces in 1985 but established the security zone and prevented Unifil from patrolling the border.

In Beirut, the Islamic resistance — a coalition of pro-Iranian fundamentalist — said in a

statement that Muslim fighters attacked SLA positions with rocket-propelled grenades, mortar bombs and machineguns.

Pro-Iranian and Palestinian fighters frequently attack Israeli and SLA targets in the zone, prompting Israeli retaliation.

On Monday, six Israeli jets bombed two positions of the radical Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) near the port city of Sidon, 40 km (25 miles) south of Beirut, killing one person and wounding eight.

A number of Israeli helicopter gunships today launched mock raids over southern Lebanon less than 24 hours of Israeli air raids of Palestinian positions to the east of Sidon, military sources said.

Willful killings in held areas

Al Haq accuses Israel

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Feb 20, (AP): A Palestinian human rights group charged today that Israeli soldiers were carrying out "deliberate, cold-blooded ... targeted" killings of Palestinians suspects instead of arresting them.

Officials of Al Haq-law in the service of man told a news conference that its researchers documented three such cases and were investigating 15 possible other such killings in the past year in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Al Haq, in a report on human rights in the second year of the Palestinian uprising, also said that Israel has loosened its rules to allow soldiers to open fire more freely, increased to one year the length of imprisonment without trial, and begun sealing houses to punish suspected stone throwers.

Fatah Azzam, administrative director of the group, said that Palestinians in the occupied territories live in "a state of lawlessness" imposed by soldiers and the military government and sanctioned by Israel's courts. "The deliberate and systematic disregard of the state of Israel for the standards of international humanitarian law applicable to the West Bank and Gaza renders its occupation of those territories illegal," the Al Haq report said.

An Israeli army spokesman, who is not identified under military regulations, denied there was "any policy which calls upon soldiers to premeditatedly kill Palestinians."

"Israel's actions have been directed against violence, frequently incited and instigated by extremist elements," the spokesman said.

He said that Israel was obligated under international law to maintain order in the occupied territories. "Israel is constantly seeking to find a proper balance between security and humanitarian requirements," he said.

Al Haq, which is affiliated with the International Commission of Jurists in Geneva, Switzerland, listed 379 killings of Palestinians by soldiers, Israeli settlers and collaborators with Israel during the year. However, it did not give an accounting of killings of alleged collaborators by other Palestinians and, despite repeated questions at the news conference, refused to directly criticize Palestinian groups who may have carried out the murders.

Mona Rishawi, an attorney for Al Haq, said the organization had no way of investigating "underground" killings of alleged collaborators and could only blame Israeli authorities for failing to provide adequate protection to citizens.

"As long as the de facto authority is in the hands of the Israeli military, it is they who are responsible," she said.

According to statistics kept by the Associated Press, 657 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli soldiers or civilians since the uprising began 26 months ago. At least 187 Palestinians have been killed by fellow Arabs, most on suspicion of collaboration. Forty-two Israelis have died.

As to the charges of deliberate killings, Al Haq lists the victims as Yasser Abo Ghosh, 17, who was killed last July 10; Nidal Al Habash, 21, shot to death Oct 9; and Atwa Harzallah, 27, who was fatally shot on Feb 17, 1989.

Amnesty International urged King Hassan today to end what it called persistent human rights violations in Morocco, including torture of political prisoners.

The London-based organisation's appeal followed talks with the King and Moroccan government ministers earlier this month.

Amnesty said it had voiced concern about reported deaths of political prisoners in custody, continued detention of military officers who had completed prison sentences and long-term detention of prisoners of conscience.

Khalaf warns of bus attack repeat

KUWAIT, Feb 20, (AP): A prominent Palestinian leader was quoted today as warning of repetitions of acts such as the attack on an Israeli tour bus in Egypt by people frustrated over the headlocked Middle East peace process, a Kuwaiti newspaper reported.

Salah Khalaf, interviewed by the daily in Tunis where the Palestine Liberation Organisation is headquartered, also called for an end to differences between Syria and Iraq and Syria and the PLO to enable revival of an integrated eastern front against Israel.

Khalaf is second in command to the PLO leader Yasser Arafat in the mainstream Fatah faction.

"If the peacehead continues in the Middle East, several other similar operations will take place," Khalaf told the paper when asked to comment on the Feb 4 attack on an Israeli tourist bus in Egypt.

Salah Khalaf warned against a possible Israeli invasion of Jordan aimed at creating a Palestinian state in East Jordan.

"This situation clarifies what is already announced by Israeli leaders, about the need to create a substitute homeland for Palestinians in Jordan," Khalaf told a Kuwaiti daily.

"This will not happen except through an Israeli invasion of Jordan, to create suitable conditions leading to the establishment of a Palestinian state on the East Bank of the River Jordan," Khalaf said.

Khalaf pointed out that "other substitutes are emerging on the scene, who feel obliged to take a different line if the PLO exceeds its role."

"Israeli extremism will be faced with another extremism, be it Palestinian, Arab or Islamic. Such extremism will not be satisfied with mere words to express itself," he said.

Khalaf said such extremists were now being armed and receive training, claiming that "Arab intelligence bodies" knew where the extremists were training in Arab countries and Iran.

"What is the PLO expected to do? Shall it act as a guard for Israel? Our role is not to search for those who stage operations against Israel. We can hardly control our people, how can we control others?" he asked.

Khalaf said the Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel, supported by the United States, brought "sweeping dangers."

Sudan rebels seek to establish a state

KHARTOUM, Feb 20, (AP): Three "Israeli experts" have been reported wounded in southern Sudan's civil war zone, apparently while helping the rebels, a government general says.

He and a colleague also repeated in newspaper articles a government claim that Israel and other countries including Cuba and South Africa are helping the rebels.

The generals alleged that the Sudan People's Liberation Army has changed policy and now seeks to establish a breakaway southern state called the Imatong Socialist state.

An Ethiopia-based rebel spokesman denied his movement was getting aid from Israel or Cuba or was planning to establish a state in southern Sudan.

Maj. Gen. Nasr El Din Suliman, commander of the sprawling Equatoria region, did not claim to have confirmation that Israelis had been wounded in the seven-year-old conflict.

But he told the Ethiopian newspaper Al Inkaz Al Watany that his command, based in Equatoria's capital Juba, received a report that "three Israeli experts were wounded in a landmine blast while inspecting a rebel camp in Equatoria."

In Addis Ababa, Ethiopia's capital, SPLA spokesman Lam Akol said: "We have not contemplated or anticipated any form of assistance from Israel. The Khartoum government always has tried to associate us with Israel in an attempt to isolate us from the Arab world."

Interviewed in Juba, Suliman said government troops saw "white mercenaries in the (rebel-held) Kajo-Kaje area" west of Juba and that his soldiers seized a Soviet-made T-55 tank, further evidence of foreign interference.

Remnants of battle

A Christian woman cleans her destroyed balcony in Ain Al Roumaneh area in East Beirut. The building was destroyed during the heavy artillery battles between troops loyal to Gen. Aoun and fighters of Lebanese Forces. (Reuters wirephoto)

Lebanon rivals prepare for war

BEIRUT, Feb 20, (Reuters): Lebanese Forces (LF) militia and troops of General Michel Aoun clashed in two neighbourhoods in East Beirut today and both sides prepared for war despite an appeal for peace by LF leader Samir Geagea.

Security sources said fighting erupted in Dora neighbourhood and for 30 minutes militiamen battled troops, using machineguns and rocket-propelled grenades in a savage fire-fight.

Sporadic shooting could also be heard in Ashrafieh, the main foothold of the LF. It was not immediately possible to check whether the flare-up on the third day of a shaky ceasefire had caused casualties.

More than 700 people have been killed and 2,500 wounded since the often close-quarter fighting, in crowded residential areas erupted on January 31. Eleven ceasefire have collapsed.

Witnesses said Aoun's army troops today took up combat positions in East Beirut and nearby mountains and their LF foes deployed more men and weapons, threatening the 12th ceasefire and a peace pact.

"You can smell tension in the air and see fear on the faces of people," said George Nasseh, a resident of East Beirut which has been battered by nearly three weeks of pitiless battles.

"We live like mice, we leave our underground shelters and sneak to search for some food and water and run back and hide again."

Calling for peace, Geagea said to reporters: "We are all convinced that it is impossible for one side to overpower the other and eliminate it because both Aoun's army and the Lebanese Forces are strong."

"Having been strong in the war, we should have the courage to go to peace," said Geagea, commander of the 10,000-strong LF.

He said he would abide by a peace pact announced by mediators last night.

But in an interview with the British Broadcasting Corporation, Geagea reiterated he would not submit to Aoun's demand to lay down arms and withdraw his fighters from Beirut.

"I cannot compromise on East Beirut," he said. "I am ready for negotiations, but I am not ready to surrender anywhere."

"Our headquarters and the largest of our infrastructure are located in East Beirut ... I cannot imagine a solution based on getting out of East Beirut," he said.

Wounded Lebanese fighters from rival Christian armies arrived in Italy today for treatment.

The 21 fighters were flown to Verona on a military transport plane and taken to hospitals in four northern cities. The evacuation was organised by the Italian foreign ministry and a humanitarian organisation.

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Indian Video Roundup

Naya Khoon: greed, lust, intrigue and deception

By Fadma Ahmed
Arab Times staff

IF Naya Khoon is any indication, then Bombay filmmakers are trying to clean up the mess on the silver screen. At least, that's what happens in Naya Khoon. There is greed, lust, intrigue, deception and final redemption in Naya Khoon. And, in an attempt to say that they care... the filmmaker propagates humanitarian values, for a change. And, it doesn't go down badly.

It may not be the best in the genre... but at least, it's unpretentious enough, enabling you to sit through the three hours without wincing as often as you do if you were watching a so-called "action thriller".

Wrapped up in the poor-boy rich-girl entanglement, which not surprisingly, ends in happiness for all concerned, it indulges in battling the wealthy to protect the poor. A play that goes down well in the overall context of the movie.

Like in most Hindi movies, several elements are thrown in to, perhaps, satisfy a wide range of viewers. There is a wayward, greedy playboy, who lives off the earnings of his wealthy industrialist father; a villain working behind the scenes and the good guy — the hero — who fights against odds to not only survive but walk away with the prettiest girl in town.

Mandakini plays a doctor, who sets up free mobile clinics for the slum dwellers and remote villagers. She is assisted by Dr Anand (Govinda) who is the man with the golden heart, and a fist stronger than that of a gorilla, a combination for some action,

some romance (songs included) and some melodrama.

Thanks to the better sense that seems to prevail, there is not too much of any one ingredient. On the lines of the films in the 1950s and 1960s, there is a main theme and sub-plot, both falling in place in the climax.

The sub-plot, once again, revolves around like keeping out of the bed of a man who promises to marry you, and even marries you and fathers a child, only to dump you for a reason best known to himself. Deception, in the context of the movie, seems

rather natural. But one wished that the woman wouldn't indulge in self-pity and become a martyr.

In addition to Govinda and Mandakini, it features Gulshan Grover, Saeed Jaffrey, Reta Bhaduri and Reza Murad.

Vanchit had the makings of an unusual, offbeat movie, perhaps even a thriller. Although it starts off promisingly enough, along the way, it falls into the commercial pit. Starring starlet Pallavi Joshi and relative newcomer Madan Jain, it was basically about how a woman tries to

escape from a trap. However, the urge, perhaps to succeed, supercedes all other motives but along the way, it slides downhill.

It had the trappings of an excellent dramatic thriller, and the potential. Maya Sarren is a beautiful, cheerful secretary in corporation, owned by Saxena (Kulbhushan Kharbada). The businessman courses a desire to make it big, and plans to run for elections. To climb the ladder of success, he tries to use Maya. The girl panics, and runs away. It is at this point that the script writer introduces new elements that

twist the tale, making it a run-of-the-mill merry-go-around with no clear action plan.

Also, the director when to call it a day, and goes on and on about Maya's miserable existence. Judicious editing, and crisp direction, would have gone a long way in making Vanchit a memorable experience. As it is, you can see it, if you are prepared to suffer the trivialities.

The above films are by courtesy of Athari Video, Main St, Farwaniya; Falcon Video, Abbasiya, and Canary Video, Fisheries Bldg, Sharq.



Mandakini



Govinda

CINEMA

Al Andalus
Man on Fire
Al Salmiya
Hall Booked
Al Hamra
Batman
Drive-in
Arabic film
Al Firdous
Agnee Path
Fahadhel Open
Rage of Ninja
Al Jahra
Cyclone
Granada
Arabic film
Sufi Khatt
North Shore
Jleek
Skate Town USA
Ahmadi Drive-in
Arabic Film

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
Al Amin Pharmacy
Jaber Al Mubarak Street
Al Salam Pharmacy
Mubarak Al Kabir Street
Hawalli and Nagra
Al Walad Pharmacy
Tunis Street
Salmiya and Rumailhiya
Sahara Pharmacy
Salem Al Mubarak Street
Fahadhel and Ahmadi
Sadaf Pharmacy
Makkah St.
Al Farwaniya
Al Munawar Pharmacy
Souk Market
Al Riqei
Al Riqei Pharmacy
Al Jahra
Al Najah Pharmacy
Fourth Area

PRAYERS

Fajr	5.02 am
Zohr	12.02 pm
Asr	3.16
Maghreb	5.41
Isha	6.59

TELEVISION PROGRAMME



KTV 2, 10.00 — Empire of the Sun.

KTV 1

MORNING
9.30 Opening and Holy Quran
9.40 Sabah Al Khair, news
9.50 Cartoon Serial
10.15 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
10.30 Shuaa Min Al Madhi: Arabic Serial (part 10)
11.30 Al Waad: Weekly Beduin Serial (part 7)
12.30 News Summary
12.35 Holy Qurao and Closedown

EVENING

4.00 Opening and Holy Quran
4.15 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)
4.45 Saham Al Fadh: cartoon serial
5.15 Spencer: Arabic children serial
5.45 Night chemists, air-lifts and official advertisements
6.00 Wa Qala Hakeem: Historical Serial (part 12)
7.00 Varieties
7.15 Housing and citizens: local programme, prepared by the National Housing Authority
7.45 Islamic monuments and arts: cultural programme (part 7)
8.30 Good Evening and local news
9.00 News in Arabic
9.45 The television network: Local variety programme, prepared and presented by Abdul Rahman Al Najjar
10.15 Alham Sagheera: local serial (part 12)
11.15 La Waqt Lil hob: Arabic feature film, starring Faten Hamama, Khusdi Abaza and Salah Shaheen
12.45 News Summary

12.50 The World Today via Satellite
1.15 Holy Quran and Closedown

KTV 2

6.00 Opening announcement and Holy Quran
6.10 Scooby Doo. A cartoon series for children
6.30 Danger Bay. "Before The Mast" Jonah and Nicole sign on to crew a tall ship and get more than they bargained for.
7.00 International Outdoorsman. "Hot Air Balloons" Action-packed out-door, live-action adventures that circles the globe, captivating the universal family audience.
7.30 Growing Pains. "Mandigo" Jason, Maggie, Carol and Ben arrive late in the ferry launching place. Mike and the nurse maid spend the night on the island alone!
8.00 News in English
8.30 Miami Vice. Each crime has its suitable punishment and what is required first is to arrest the criminal.
9.30 The Science Edition. The technological revolution and its impact on human life and behaviour.
10.00 Cine Club. Presented by Farouk Abdulaziz. Empire of the Sun. "Starring: Mil Brooks During the invasion of Shaoghai by the Japanese troops an English boy is separated from his aristocratic family to struggle for his survival."
12.00 News in Brief
12.15 Magazine D'Actualite

ARTS

Kuwait Handicrafts Exhibition

FIFTY-SEVEN Kuwaiti artists will display handicrafts at the Kuwait Handicrafts Exhibition that opens at the Regency Palace Hotel on Feb 24. It will be opened by Sheikh Salem Al Sabah, Interior Minister. A wide range of handicrafts, ranging from paintings to jewellery, will be displayed. Opening hours: 8.30 am to 1 pm and 4 to 8.30 pm. All are welcome.

Hobby Centre

FELT CRAFT as a medium for children to make pictures, flowers, toys etc. with felt. This new craft course will start February 27th and March 4th for 6 weeks for children from 8 years old. Tel: 5618847, 5317354.

Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah

14 Feb. Architecture of Manjlik Jerusalem exhibition, opening 4.30 pm co-organized by the British Council Wed 14 February - Wed 21 February. This is a specially designed photographic exhibition which is accompanied by wall text and is on display for only a week. Dr Bourgoyne who will give a lecture in Arabic and in English is author of the architectural catalogue which accompanies the exhibition.

Seminar

THE seminar at the DAA, on Arabic and European Art to The Light of Zodiacal Symbolism has been postponed. It will be given during the period Feb 11 - March 11, 1990. Morning sessions on Sunday and Tuesday 11.00 - 12.30 am or evening session on Sunday and Tuesday 6.00 - 7.30 pm. Registration may be made by phoning the Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah. Tel: 2430826, 2453259.

SOCIAL

Robbie in the lobby

ROBBIE 2002 a remote control robot over 1.2 metre tall will be performing in the lobby of the Kuwait International Hotel on 23rd, 24th and 25th February at 2.00 pm and 6.00 pm. It can greet, talk, rotate, bow backwards and forwards, tap dance and perform many other tricks to entertain children of all ages. It has made over 200 television appearances the most successful being the British TV Quiz show 3.2.1 having over 17 million viewers and was seen across the world. Tickets on sale now. KD1.000 per person. Tel: 2530000 ext 8040.

Children's variety show

RANGDHANU, a children's variety show which includes a play, will be staged on March 1, Thursday at the Theatre Hall of Kuwait University Law Faculty, Shuwaikh campus, at 6.30 pm. For cards contact 4840759, 4312730, 4312280, 4733106 or 3729425.

Goan Welfare Society

MARCH 2 — Friday Goan Welfare Society meeting will be held at Ramada Salam Hotel on 2nd March at 10 am followed by a reception at 12 oon for the Goan football team who won the exhibition match recently in Kuwait Goa vs Kerala.

Flute recital

PRESENTED by a group of 4 young Austrian artists at the Kuwait International Hotel on 24th February at 8.00 pm. Winners of the first prize at the Youth Musicians' Festival in Austria, they have recorded for the radio and television in Italy, Luxembourg, Switzerland, USSR, Egypt and Austria. In the Terrace Room. Tel: 2530000 ext 8039/8040.

Tivim Centre

"TIVIM Centre is pleased to announce their 3rd Annual 9-a-side Inter Village Football Tournament which will be held on the Sour grounds, Kuwait City, beginning March 27/28th 1990. For further information please contact organisers — 2441860 Casimiro."

Craft Centre

MOTHERS are your hands too full with your tots on weekends? Here's a chance for you to relax and introduce them to creative art. For details contact 5635740, between 9 - 12 oon.

Kuwait Welsh Society

ST. DAVID'S Day buffet dinner, Thursday, 1st March 1990 at Messiah Beach Hotel. For more information ring 3713467, 3912384, 5625316.

Sultan Gallery

INDIAN artist Shamima Farid is showing a collection of her latest works at the Sultan Gallery, near Rolls Royce showroom. A wide selection of subjects are featured in the paintings of the artist, who has exhibited widely in Kuwait and overseas. However, this is Shamima's first solo-exhibition in Kuwait. Open daily from 9 am to 1 pm and 4 to 8 pm.

Act

ACT'S production of the Skin of Our Teeth at UAS, Salwa, 8 pm, Feb 27, 28 and March 1. Directed by George Plautz. For reservations please call 5725071, 5731782.

Flag at half-mast

ON the occasion of Shaheed Dibas (Martyrs' Day), the Bangladesh flag will be hoisted at half-mast at a solemn ceremony by the ambassador at the Baogladesh embassy premises, Khalidiya on Feb 21 at 9.00 am. All Bangladeshis are invited to attend the ceremony.

The opening ceremony of the Bangladesh library will be held on Feb 21 at 9.30 am at the embassy premises. All founder/permanent members are invited to attend the ceremony.

Bits n' Pieces

An interesting 8 week course in patchwork and quilting techniques. For details contact Tel. 5634663.

Rainbow and Philippine Youth Band performance

ON the occasion of Kuwait's National Day, the Rainbow Band and the Philippine Youth Band will be performing at 4.00 to 7.00 pm on February 22 to February 25 at the Eotertainment City-Doha.

Israa & Miraj function

LECTURES on Israa & Miraj by well renowned persons at Masjid Al Abu Baker, 30, Shara Istiqlal, Dasmah (near Indian embassy) on 23.2.1990 at 5.30 pm. Daniela Desert Rally

THE annual family rally for Daocs will take place on Friday, March 23. For registration, please call Henrik — Tel: 3727688/92 ext. 246 before Wednesday, March 14.

Carnival Fleets '90 - cancelled

YMCA Incredible S.C. Regret to inform that their above function is cancelled due to unavoidable circumstances and the inconvenience caused is deeply regretted. Organisers.

APPROB essay competition

ASSOCIATION of Pakistani Professionals and Businessmen (APPROB) has extended the last date of its essay competition from 15th March to 15th April. The essay competition on the topic "My role in building a better Pakistan" is being held on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the Pakistan Revolution.

Pakistani students in the age group of between 12-14 (juniors) and 15-18 (seniors) are invited to write their essays in Urdu or English, which should be between 1,000 to 1,500 words.

Four prizes of KD 100 each (2 each for Urdu and English) will be awarded to the best articles in each group with other consolation prizes for deserving participants.

The panel of judges is headed by Dr M.T. Saleem, Dr. Ali Jaffrey and Abdus Sattar Ghazali. For further details, contact: Tel. APPROB: 2425315 Fax: 5323751.

Ladies International League

LIL newcomers: A coffee morning will be held on Feb 26 at the Sheraton Hotel from 10 am to 12 noon. New comers to LIL and Kuwait will be most welcome. For further information please call Ann oo 5316905.

Indian Cuisine Centre

Indian art of fancied lac bangles and designful henna work comes live at the finest Indian cuisine centre of Kuwait at the Maharaja Palace Restaurant.

Come savour the delicacies whilst giving your lady a gift to cherish. For more information contact 2406150.

Shaheed Day

THE Bangladesh Association, Kuwait, will hold a cultural function on the occasion of "Shaheed Day" oo Feb 24, at 6.30 pm at the Bangladesh embassy premises, Khalidiya.

Mr. K. M. Shehahuddin

the ambassador, will be the chief guest. All Bangladeshis are invited.

II Annual one act Play Competition

INDIAN Arts Circle announces the II Annual One Play Competition to be held in May 1990. The competition is open to Plays in any Indian language including English. Awards shall include Best Play (1st, 2nd & 3rd), Best Director, Best Actor & Actress, Best Child Actor, Best Stage Setting and Best Acting Performance from each team. Registration form with rules & regulations are available from Indian Arts Circle office at Funaitees. Last date of submitting registration form with required details is 28th February, 1990.

Please contact IAC office (Tel. 3904817) for further details. All Indian associations engaged in theatrical activities are requested to join.

Singapore festival

SAS Kuwait Hotel will feature Singapore festival oo 20th and 21st February at The Teot. The oriental extravaganza will present lion dancers, Chinese dancers, finger painter plus elaborate buffet of popular Singaporean recipes prepared by Singaporean chefs. First of its kind in Kuwait, the show was put up in co-ordination with Singapore Tourist Promotion Board and Singapore Airlines and aims to foster closer relations between the two countries. Tickets available at SAS hotel. For reservations, please call 5657000 ext 401 or 403.

Israa & Miraj

ON the occasion of the Israa and Miraj, a public meeting, under the auspices of the Ministry of Awaaf and Religious Affairs, will be held in Urdu at Masjid Nasir Al Hamd (beside Mohammed Bin Alqassim Road) in Hasawi area oo Friday Feb 23, after the Isha prayers. Renowned Islamic scholar, Maulana Ghulam Mohammed Mansoori and Maulana Mohammed Saeed will address the meeting. All are cordially invited to attend and share the prayers.

Milad mahfil

A Milad mahfil has been organised by the Bandhao Natya Chakra on Feb 28, at 6.30 pm at the Bangladesh Embassy (Khalidiya), to pay tribute to the martyrs of the Language Movement.

The Ambassador of Bangladesh K.M. Shehabuddin will be the chief guest. All Bangladeshis are cordially invited.

Canadian Women's League

AN invitation is extended to all Canadian women to attend this month's meeting which will be held on Saturday March 3 from 4 to 6 pm in Qurtoba. For more information contact 2563025 or 2563867.

Hyderabad celebration

ON the eve of 400 years celebration oo Hyderabad Decan, a meeting will be held at the residence of Mohammad Naseruddin on Thursday, Feb 22, 2.30pm, at Farwaniya. Interested Hyderabad residents are requested to contact Tel: Res. 4736958.

Carnival Dinner nite

BY The Entertainers will be held at SAS Hotel (The Teot) with music provided by Top Ranks & Perfect Strangers on 22nd Feb '90 from 20.30 hours onward.

Highlight of the evening: Parade by King Momo. Crowning of Carnival Queen. Winner will receive KD100 gift voucher from Jashanmal & Partners. Ramba Samba dance competition. Group prizes. Free Kuwait Airways ticket to be won to Cyprus & Bahrain and evening of fun fun fun.

For further details please contact on tel: Alex: 2414427, Choptick Chinese takeaway: 5617243, Al Faraj Travel Agent - Souk Al Moutahada: Hillary 2418888, 2418000 David: 4317582 after 5 pm till 8 pm.

SPORTS

Kuwait International Hotel

FIT FOR LIFE: Qualified Austrian masseur specialising in foot reflexology, acupressure, athletic and relaxation massage available everyday. Tennis clinics on-going for all levels of play including Junior, Ladies' and Adult sessions with Frank Novak — an experienced Canadian coach and tennis professional. Classes total 4 weeks in length and meet twice each week. Private coaching also available and fun tennis sessions for the family. Ladies' Keep Fit Classes oo Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Ladies' Sauna oo offers a 50 per cent discount oo the usual entrance fee. Ladies' Day on Saturdays and Tuesdays from 9.00 am to 9.00 pm. For details please call: 2530000/8050 (Recreation).

Apollo Fitness Centre at Holiday Inn Kuwait

Julie Dent wants you ... to check out the new look at Holiday Inn and make 1990 the year for a happier, healthier you. Squash and tennis courts with professional coaches available. Separate gym facilities for men and women, including steam, sauna and jacuzzi. Burn off those extra pounds in Julie's exercise classes or swim your way to fitness in our heated pools. Why not try out our 4-lanes bowling alley or simply relax in the lounge with friends. You have tried the rest, oo sample the best. Call in now for further details on membership, activities and events ... There is something for everyone. So, whatever your sport, call now on 4742000 ext. 6700 or ext. 6788 for the recreation manager.

7-a-side football

VARCA Sporting Centre will organise its 7th annual one day 7-a-side football festival on February 25 at Sour Grounds to mark the Kuwait National Day. The draw will be held on Friday, February 23 at 10 am. For further details and entry forms please contact VSC members or Tel. 5331940 or 2410461 and 4765070.



Adult's Day

"Bharathi Kalai Mandram arranged an 'Adult's Day' on Friday in the Indian Embassy Premises. Following a lecture demonstration and discussion about yoga, there was a debate in Tamil on the topic whether wives should go to work or not by two groups. Basing on the arguments by both the groups led by Balasubramanian and Shrinath respectively, Banumathi Gopalakrishnan declared the support for the former. Mathews, President of Indian Arts Circle distributed the prizes for the participants and the best speaker Balasubramanian.



PPC meet Pakistan's minister

Pakistan People's Club President Dr Riaz Ahmed Mahesar, General Secretary Rafiq Ahmed Mirza, Ghulam Ali Aliana with a large number of PPC members met with the Pakistani Justice & Law Minister Iftikhar Hussain Gilani at the residence of the Pakistan's Ambassador, Zahid Saeed. The minister freely talked with the members, Dr Riaz discussed Pakistani community's problems and club affairs in Kuwait. The minister assured to solve these problems with the concerned ministries. The picture shows Dr Riaz, Mirza, Aliana and members of the PPC with the visiting Pakistan's minister and the Pakistan's Ambassador to Kuwait.

فكرنا من الزمان

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Polish Trade Week

UNDER the patronage of Faisal Abdelrazzak Al Khaled, Kuwait's minister of commerce and industry, and Dr. Marcin Swietek, minister of foreign economic relations of the Republic of Poland, the Polish Trade Week exhibition will be held at the Kuwait International Fair ground (Mishref), Hall No 2, from March 4 to March 9, 1990.

The official opening ceremony will take place on March 4, 1990 at 10.00 am, with the participation of both above mentioned ministers and other officials.

Polish Trade Week is organized for the first time in Kuwait, it will be the biggest event of such a kind ever held in Gulf countries.

The main aim of this exhibition is to acquaint Kuwaitis and guests from other Gulf countries with Poland and its economy. About 30 companies will take part in this exhibition presenting their goods and services. The exhibition space covers 1200 sq.m. 200 Polish businessmen will arrive in Kuwait to present their products and look for the new possibilities.

Polish Trade Week will be accompanied by seminars and other events aiming at presentation of Polish achievements in many fields such as agriculture, industry, construction, new technologies, tourism. Polish Food Festival will be held in La Palma Restaurant in the Kuwait International Hotel.

Wide range of goods will be exhibited, including foodstuffs, sweets, fruits and vegetables and preserves, textiles, garments, carpets, steel products, cars, buses, machines, airplanes, helicopters, furniture, leather goods, toys, electrical goods, engines, cables, copper products, machine tools etc.

Poland hopes this national exhibition will create a new impulse for boosting its economic relations with Kuwait and all Gulf countries.

Everyone is invited to visit Polish Trade Week exhibition — show time: 9:00 am to 7:00 pm and 4:00 to 8:00 pm.

Iran, Seoul sign trade agreement

TEHRAN, Feb 20, (Opecna): Iranian Minister of Petroleum Gholamreza Aghazadeh and South Korean Minister of Energy and Resources Lee Bong Suh, today signed an economic and commercial letter of understanding.

Aghazadeh termed the talks with South Korean officials as "positive," adding that there were numerous grounds for mutual co-operation.

The South Korean minister, who left today, arrived here Friday at the head of an economic and oil delegation for the third session of the Iran-South Korean joint economic commission.

Summing up the outcome of the meeting, Aghazadeh said the energy committee reached agreement on the completion of the petrochemical project in Bandar Khomeini (formerly a joint Iran-Japan venture), the construction of marine platforms, co-operation in power plants, the completion of the second phase of the Kangan gas project and other energy related schemes.

Concerning industries, the two sides reached agreement in automobile manufacturing, telecommunications, fisheries and the establishment of direct flights between Tehran and Seoul, he said.

New oil and gas discoveries

ABU DHABI, Feb 20, (Opecna): The Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (Adnoc) today announced discoveries of oil and gas in a number of new formations.

According to a government report, submitted to the national consultative council at its opening session here, additional hydrocarbon reserves had also been discovered in known formations last year.

The report did not list details of the locations and volumes of the discoveries involved, but said that the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (Adnoc) was planning to drill wells at Jira Yafour, Rumaitha, Shanayil, Hudairiyah, Al Jazirah, Asab, Sahil and Shah.

Japan faces tough trade talks

After poll euphoria

TOKYO, Feb 20, (Reuters): After winning its general election last Sunday, Japan's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) heads into tough trade talks with US negotiators who are impatient for change.

Analysts today said the LDP has been preoccupied with staying in power, and progress in improving bilateral trade relations may be hard to come by in a US election year in which protectionist sentiment against Japan is mounting rapidly.

The third round of talks on the so-called Structural Impediments Initiative (SII) is due to start here on Thursday.

The SII talks focus on eliminating structural problems to narrow the huge trade imbalance between the two countries and correct the lopsided trend in

investment flows. These include Japan's land policy, distribution system and savings and investment practices. Washington claims could cost the US as much as \$30 billion a year in lost exports.

Japan has in turn said the gaping US budget deficit, low savings rate and poorly trained work force, are stumbling blocks to trade adjustment.

At the request of the LDP, the United States postponed the SII negotiations until after the lower house election and is now impatient to see progress in the talks, analysts said.

President George Bush told Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu in a letter of congratulation on his election victory the success of the SII talks is very important for continued prosperity in both countries as well as for develop-

ment of bilateral ties, Chief Cabinet Secretary Mayumi Morioka told reporters today.

"Once their (the Japanese) elections are behind them, the Japanese must move immediately to address our concerns before political reaction here hampers our chances for constructive negotiations," US Trade Representative Carla Hills said in a recent speech.

But how much Japan will be able or willing to promise the US even in the face of a growing protectionist mood, is open to question, some analysts said.

"The US has laid down six areas (it sees as barriers to trade adjustment), but the Japanese government isn't sure all six areas are really a problem," said Chiharu Sumita, an economist at UBS Phillips and Drew International in

Tokyo. "The government will be forced to give some promises they are going to do something, but I think the government is unprepared this time because everything was put off for the election," Sumita said.

The LDP, headed by Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, gained a stable majority of 275 seats in Sunday's election, assuring it control of all key committees in the powerful 512-member lower house.

Many LDP politicians close to the United States have been voted back in power, and that should allow the ruling party some measure of confidence at the negotiations table, said Jasper Koll, chief economist at S.G. Warburg Securities (Japan).

However, LDP has priorities elsewhere this week as it organizes a new

cabinet, allots committee assignments and begins work on the fiscal 1990/91 budget, Koll said.

"Concrete proposals are unlikely to come out of (the SII talks), so we should expect strong protectionist sentiment and propaganda in the US over the next three months," he said.

Other analysts are more optimistic. Tokyo already has made progress in stricter enforcement of its anti-monopoly law, as well as in reforming some retail business practices and land-related issues cited by the US in previous SII talks.

Japan may be able to promise more such reforms in the future, some analysts said.

In a bid to deflect US criticism, Japan's negotiators are likely to stress recent big drops in its trade surplus.

"The Japanese have some ammunition because the (Japanese) trade surplus fell 89 per cent in January and it was the ninth straight monthly decline," said Paul Summerville, an economist at Jardine Fleming Securities Ltd in Tokyo.

Concurrent with the SII talks, Japanese and US trade experts are due to discuss in Tokyo issues covered by the "super 301" retaliatory clause of the US trade act.

Washington last year designated three trade areas for possible retaliation against Japan and protectionist sentiment is mounting on Capitol Hill.

"If there are no significant results coming out of the SII talks, Congress is likely to take a hard-nosed view (towards Japan)," said one diplomatic source close to the talks.

Saddam message to King Fahd

Chalabi, Saudis to discuss oil market

BAGHDAD, Feb 20, (Agencies): Iraq's oil minister left for Saudi Arabia today with a message from President Saddam Hussein for King Fahd, the Iraqi news agency reported.

The agency quoted Issam Abdul-Rahim Al Chalabi as saying he would have talks in Riyadh on the oil market and next month's meeting in Vienna of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec).

It said Chalabi visited Kuwait on Saturday with a message from Hussein for its FH the Amir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah, and had talks with his Kuwait counterpart, Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa on Opec oil quotas.

He said his talks also covered the effect on the oil market of the recent agreement of Opec on production ceilings and quotas for each member.

Kuwait said last week it had exceeded its Opec-assigned output quota. Diplomats said

Chalabi's visit was intended to persuade Kuwait to observe its quota in case overproduction led to lower prices.

Iraq says it is sticking to its Opec-set production quota of 3.14 million bpd for the first quarter of 1990. A Reuters survey put Iraqi oil output in January at 3.1 million bpd.

Iraq has invited foreign companies to develop its proven new oilfields, in a bid to boost production, offering to pay them from the proceeds of the crude they produce, an authoritative oil publication said today.

The Nicosia-based Middle East Economic Survey said Iraq planned to boost its oil production to meet rising world demands by developing its proven new oilfields with the help of foreign companies, offering them a new kind of contract.

Mees quoted Chalabi as saying under the new type of contracts, the companies will not be

entitled to equity production-sharing, as in the regular types of contracts.

Instead, the companies will be offered long-term contracts for the purchase of crude oil from the newly developed wells, in addition to the crude they receive in repayment of their investments and service, he said.

The terms of the contracts are subject to negotiation, Chalabi said.

The contracts, which will be awarded to companies or groups of companies for the complete development of particular oilfields, will require the firms to install surface facilities and/or drill the wells.

The contractors will be required to "provide all the necessary hard currency finance for the project(s) while the Iraqi side will put up the local currency requirements," Mees said.

Meanwhile, Opec's efforts to maintain an \$18 a barrel

reference price in real terms "will provide a favourable climate for the discovery and development of non-Opec resources," according to a report.

London-based analysts Energy Market Consultants (EMC) predict that non-Opec oil production, excluding the centrally planned economies, will rise from a projected 25.5 million bpd this year to 26.6 million bpd in 1995.

A study by EMC maintains that non-Opec output of crude oil, natural gas liquids and condensates is expected to level off in the latter part of the decade before falling to around 23 million bpd in the year 2010.

"Although the days of rapid growth in non-Opec production are almost certainly over, there is still a high probability of steady expansion through at least the middle of this decade and only a gradual decline thereafter," it says.

Gold gains

Dollar closes steady

LONDON, Feb 20, (Reuters): The dollar closed in Europe today steady against the West German mark but much higher against an unfavourable Japanese yen, dealers said.

They said the dollar gained mild support from Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan who said when testifying to a congressional committee in Washington that holding down inflation was the US central bank's most important goal.

He made the comment in a report on the state of the economy, a twice-yearly statement that is closely watched for clues to Fed policy. But the report had little real impact as his words were much as traders had expected.

"Greenspan's comments look basically neutral for the dollar," said Ian Amstrad, senior economist at Chase Investment Bank in London.

He saw Gross National Production (GNP) expanding by up to two per cent during 1990 and expected the Consumer Price Index (CPI), a guide to inflation, to rise four to 4.5 per cent. In 1989, GNP rose 2.4 per cent and the CPI climbed 4.5 per cent.

The dollar closed in London at 1.6777 marks today, little changed from its Monday finish of 1.6759 marks. It gained a yen against the Japanese currency to close at 145.55 yen.

Investors sold yen actively, particularly against the mark, and this kept the yen under pressure in general.

Traders said the Japanese currency was out of favour at the moment as there was uncertainty in the market about whether the United States will impose trade sanctions against Japan in order to reduce its huge trade deficit with the country.

A larger than expected jump of 11.5 per cent in Japanese money supply in the year to January did little to help, and merely encouraged traders to carry on speculating that Japanese interest rates will go up soon.

West German shares suffered particularly as German bonds have been badly hit by widespread belief that West Germany will pay the price for monetary union with East Germany.

Gold closed more than three dollars higher at \$419.85 an ounce.

Pay hikes sought

Bank employees strike

AMMAN, Jordan, Feb 20, (AP): More than 400 employees of troubled Petra Bank staged a sit-in today at the bank headquarters, halting most bank operations in a demand for pay hikes and management reforms.

The strikers said they had shut down at least 26 of Petra's 28 branches in Jordan, even though Labour Minister Qasem Obaidat declared the strike illegal for lack of the required 14-day notice. Employee representatives said the 680 bank workers had not received a raise in five years. They are seeking raises of at least 20 per cent.

Bank chairman Bassam Atari said "deteriorating finances" had delayed employee compensation and prevented pay raises.

"But the bank's salary scale is equivalent to other banks and it is much higher than the government's salary scale," Atari said. "I do not have much to offer them in light of the serious financial crisis we are facing," he said.

Atari said management had offered to raise pay by 1 to 15 per cent for various categories of workers, but "the union refused to talk to us, saying it is much below the demands of the employees."

He said management was trying to improve working conditions and had recently improved its health insurance plan.

Petra was Jordan's second largest bank when the government took it over in August 1989, alleging it was unable to meet Central Bank reserve requirements.



Employees of Petra Bank stage protest strike outside the bank's Amman headquarters. 'We will go on till our just demands are met' reads the placard. The strikers are demanding wage increases and better conditions. (Reuters wirephoto)

Shell to boost investment

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 20, (Opecna): The Shell group of companies in Malaysia is to almost double its investment in the country's downstream operations over the next five years, it has been reported here.

Company chairman Chris Knight has announced that the group has implemented a scheme to upgrade its retail outlets in a bid to maintain its standing in the downstream sector.

In an article featured in the company's newspaper "Shell News," he said that 49 new outlets were built in peninsular Malaysia last year in addition to 12 in the eastern states of Sabah and Sarawak.

Renovation was carried out at a further 29 stations which were fitted with the latest electronic pumps.

He said the investment programme included the development of special products such as liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), Bitumen and Lubricants.

Meanwhile, a report by the Malaysian National Oil Company, Petronas, has revealed that the country's crude production is expected to level off at 600,000 bpd in 1995 before declining.

It said that unless new hydrocarbon discoveries were made, output was predicted to fall to 300,000 bpd by the year 2000 and 100,000 bpd 2010.

Africa, Latin America seen hit by global investment shift

MANILA, Feb 20, (Reuters): Africa and Latin America could be hard hit by a shift in Western investment to Eastern Europe during the 1990s, but East Asia will remain a development bright spot, a senior World Bank official predicted today.

World Bank Treasurer Donald Roth said Japan and the major Western industrialised countries would step up investment in the former communist economies of Eastern Europe, syphoning funds away from developing countries.

While this could have an impact on Asia, he expected the booming Asian economies would go on attracting substantial commercial investment, with Japan dominating capital flows across much of the region.

But he forecast that developing countries in other parts of the world could be seriously affected.

"Latin America and Africa will be pushed to the sidelines with respect to receiving capital flows," he told a media and economic seminar in Manila called the one-Asia assembly.

"The commercial banks will not return to these markets voluntarily in this century other than for trade and project finance. As far as private sector capital flows are concerned, Africa and Latin America will increasingly be at the margin of investment plans," Roth stated.

He said that Eastern Europe would absorb a much higher proportion of new capital flows and equity investment, with some of the investment attracted from Asia's newly industrialising nations like South Korea and Taiwan.

But at a separate session, Roth emphasised that institutions like the World Bank would go on providing capital to the world's poorest. He said the World Bank would have \$20 billion a year to lend during the 1990s.

"Eastern Europe will not subtract at all from the bank's ability to lend to developing countries," he stated.

In a speech read for him at the Manila conference, International Monetary Fund (IMF) managing director Michel Camdessus said incorporating socialist economies into the international economy was the toughest

but most promising challenge of the 1990s.

He said transforming centrally-planned economies into more market-oriented ones "will have profound consequences for the coming decade, and for the rest of the world as well as the countries themselves." Camdessus was invited to the conference, but was unable to attend.

Both the IMF and World Bank are already helping Poland. Roth said he expected Romania to resume borrowing from the bank, and Czechoslovakia may become a member in the next few months.

Economist and author John Galbraith said the industrialised countries "must come promptly and generously to the assistance of the countries now in the process of liberalisation ... debt service should be suspended; affirmative help in grants and loans must not be confined to capital goods," he said.

Help for Eastern Europe should not mean less for other developing countries, he added. Instead, reduced tension should mean reduced military expenditure, which could be used instead to help the world's poorer countries.



Alleged failure

British Conservative MP John Brown mentioned in a Commons committee report, recommended action against him over alleged failure to declare business interests. (Reuters wirephoto)

More austerity ahead

Economy slowed in '89

BEIJING, Feb 20, (Reuters): China's economic growth slowed dramatically in 1989 after being cramped by a tough austerity campaign, a government spokesman said today while predicting more sluggishness this year.

Figures revealed a decline in employment in rural industry and the private sector, once the most dynamic areas of the economy but now targets of orthodox Marxists who seized control of the ruling Communist Party last June.

Zhang Zhongji, spokesman of the State Statistical Bureau, said gross national product, the value of all goods and services, rose only 3.9 per cent last year after an 11.2 per cent expansion in 1988.

Industrial output climbed 8.3 per cent, but that was far below the 20.8 per cent rise of 1988.

China clamped tight controls on credit in September, 1988, to check threatening inflation. It brought inflation down to 17.3 per cent for all of 1989 from a peak of 27.9 per cent reached last February, but it sent the economy into a tailspin.

"Industry will continue to grow slowly in the first half of this year," Zhang said. "1990 is a key year in the austerity programme. We must make sure that we do not blindly loosen controls on credit to resolve problems ahead of us."

Initial figures for January already showed a steep decline in industrial output and many of the nation's factories have been forced to close or pay workers only a fraction of their wages.

Unemployment was officially put at four million people, or 2.7 per cent of the workforce, but Western economists said that was far below the real figure.

"This is only the number of people who have gone through official channels to find new jobs," said an economist.

"There are many people who lost jobs in the cities and were sent home to the countryside," he said. "We don't know what has really happened to many of these people."

مدرسة الكويت الإنجليزية KUWAIT ENGLISH SCHOOL

Teaching opportunities — September 1990

Applications are now being received for September appointments as currently advertised in the UK Educational press. The anticipated vacancies include General Class Teaching posts in Infant and Junior Departments and a number of Senior School Appointments (GCSE and "A" level syllabus): Geography, Economics, Physics, Maths, English, Drama, French, Computer Studies, Music, Chemistry, Economics. Also Head of English, Head of Music and Head of Careers.

Also Head of Primary Music. Application forms are available at the school in Salwa (Saturday — Wednesday 7.30 am - 2.30 pm and 5 pm - 7 pm, Thursdays 8 am - 12.00 noon) or telephone: 5655216/5655218/5625640. Fax 5629356. Write to P.O. Box 8640, Salmiya 22057.

OBITUARY



Sudden demise of our mum

Gaik Choo Bolton Died on 19-2-90

Love always from Carl and Cheryl

A man of many talents — cut out for success

By Jadranka Porter
Arab Times staff

WHEN Hollywood releases its next production this month entitled *Fat Man, Little Boy*, starring Paul Newman, the actors' credit list will feature another famous name that few movie fans would recognise though.

Dr Robert Gale, a bone marrow transplant surgeon, author of numerous scientific and popular books, a mini-hero in the Soviet Union when he helped handle disasters such as the Chernobyl nuclear accident and the Armenian earthquake, appropriately enough plays a doctor.

Acting is the latest of projects Gale, a man who seems to be too successful to be true, plunged into.

At 44 Gale, a professor at University of California in Los Angeles (UCLA), is president of the Armand Hammer Centre for Advanced Studies in Nuclear Energy and Health, heads the UCLA Centre for Advanced Studies in Leukemia and chairs the Senate task force for nuclear safety. He has saved lives and his name will probably go down in medical history as a man who helped conquer leukemia.

He has direct access to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, counts former US President Ronald Reagan among his neighbours and Dustin Hoffman and Michael York among his friends. "I find it interesting to have dinner with Gregory Peck or Zsa Zsa Zabor and to regret he cannot sing like Jose Carreras to bring instant happiness to people."

The movie he appears in is dear to Gale. The film is about the two atomic bombs, known in the US, that produced them and used them, as *Fat Man* and *Little Boy*. But it is also a story about how technology got precedence over people, even the ones that have advanced its development.

Said Gale who was recently in Kuwait to attend a symposium on breast cancer: "The making of the bomb had taken a life of its own and could not be stopped. People who made the bomb died in obscurity."

But there won't be any obscurity for Gale the

physician, scientist, author and perhaps even the actor. His notoriety is on the rise and he values personal relationships too much to allow his scientific pursuits to eclipse the human contact he needs as a man and physician.

Success

With a home in Hollywood, and a life in which almost anything he touched turned into success, Gale has tasted fame and popularity and admits to their appeal. But where better to observe than in Hollywood how reputations are made and crushed?

"Popularity is not the name of the game for me," he has decided long ago.

"My life hinges on taking care of people and the success of my science," he insists. "I am determined that we are going to cure leukemia."

In fact it is already being done. Gale has been particularly successful in bone marrow transplantations which bring a new lease of life to 50 per cent of cancer patients who undergo the surgery. Although the operations are increasingly effective in curing the disease, the bone marrow is not easy to get by. This is why a consortium of all of the world's transplant centres, including Kuwait's has been set up in Milwaukee, US, with Gale as president. It pools all the data and makes for some rapid progress in organ transplantation. The centre lists information on some 250,000 bone marrow donors who can help patients provided the tissues can be matched. There are only two persons in every 10,000 whose genetic systems that control transplantation match.

Gale and his friends Hoffman, Carreras, who himself was cured of leukemia after a bone marrow transplantation, and others have been actively encouraging people to be donors.

But it was Gale's work as head of a nuclear emergency response team that brought him international renown. People still remember his 1986 press conference in Moscow, one of the first by an American, soon after the Chernobyl nuclear explosion that eventually killed 31.

He can't forget it either. He refused the script but found it easier to handle 2,000 news hungry reporters than an angry Mr Gorbachev who

summoned him to the Kremlin later that day. Holding the government spokesman's place on the Soviet side, Gorbachev was fuming about inaccurate reports following the Chernobyl disaster. He also showed that he was irked by the then US president Reagan's description of the Soviet Union as an evil empire. Surprised but unafraid Gale reassured Gorbachev.

A Republican president is your best bet to make peace with America, he told him, knowing that the American public would endorse a super-power rapprochement negotiated by an anti-Soviet president.

Mission

That was the beginning of a relationship that is based on respect and liking, at least on Gale's side. Gorbachev, who invited Gale to the Soviet Union, and could do so swiftly, bypassing diplomatic channels, must have, together with many other Soviets, appreciated Gale's efforts. "If you help them they never forget," says Gale of the Soviets.

The American, who has "the luxury of not being the government spokesman," plunged into his multifaceted Soviet mission with gusto and likes to think that he has contributed to the Soviet-American rapprochement.

He has treated the victims afflicted by radiation from the Chernobyl reactor. In earthquake-stricken Armenia, amid death and destruction, Gale was dispatching people, dogs and heat-seeking devices. And through private channels he promptly organised a supply of disposable syringes when the Soviet Union was hit by three small AIDS epidemics.

Indeed, his help in combating AIDS in the Soviet Union, where the normal practice was to reuse syringes, earned him a place on the Soviet task force on AIDS. He also made sure they got funds to buy a US-made machine that produces blood-taking devices.

Although deeply interested in his work in the USSR, a chief troubleshooter on an international disaster response team and a renowned scientist and physician Gale is hardly in charge of his own schedule. He claims that "time, rather than money, is my limitation."

He is lucky that he enjoys travelling and is more amused than irked by his "erratic schedule."

He spends three months a year in his home in Los Angeles, maintains a flat in Moscow and a laboratory in Israel. When he is at neither of these places he could be found perhaps in Brazil where he helps deal with a nuclear leak, or at a scientific gathering in Malaysia or simply having dinner with Dustin Hoffman in New York, as he did last Friday.

He uses the latest communications technology with a vengeance and to the extent that it matters little whether he is in his office in California or in Kuwait's Regency Palace Hotel suite. Although his responsibilities require careful planning and stamina it is his emotional and mental strength that carries him through difficulties that a lesser person would have succumbed to.

Indeed the secret of his success, should be sought in his finely tuned character that combines skills and interests so as to offset the ill-effects of stress. He may be driving himself hard but says "that's fun." He varies his activities and ventures to the point that his life has become like an unstoppable merry-go-round. "I still think I have a home," he says sounding not entirely sure. And he adds with almost childlike vulnerability: "I couldn't do it without them (my family). Where would I go home? You need to go home some place."

Potential

If anything, Gale is the man who loves to explore his potential. Hence the desire to act. The key phrase he uses to explain how he functions in his professional and private life is "scenable balance."

He says he has a luxury of being a scientist (immunologist) and a physician (cancer specialist, haematologist).

This allows him to sometimes work in relative isolation and at other times in situations where he cannot function without people and they cannot live without his help.

"I bounce back and forth," he says. But the exercise is not without its risks. He also admits that sometimes he gets burnt. "If I died with

every patient that died I wouldn't get anywhere. If I didn't die with some of them I wouldn't be much of a physician," he explains.

"There is always three or four patients a year when you really want to win and you lose."

Part of Gale's personal appeal is a large number of celebrities among his friends and acquaintances. Among these Gorbachev looms large.

As he declares his admiration for the Soviet president, Gale, a Democrat who has voted for several Republican presidents, hastens to brush aside notions that he might be sharing Gorbachev's political convictions.

Survivor

His assessment of the man who set into motion changes that are leading to a better and safer world is not one of a visionary with a plan to enact.

"He is an intelligent guy who had started on a voyage without a map, only his brain," observed Gale. And he has no doubt about Gorbachev's staying power. "Having spent a couple of very unpleasant hours fighting with this guy I believe he is a long-term survivor," he said.

Dustin Hoffman, on the other hand, is an easy person and more of a kindred spirit. The doctor and the actor forged a friendship during consultations after Hoffman decided to make a movie based on a book written about Gale and one of his patients. It is as yet uncertain when the novel, *Life and Death on 10 West*, will be transferred on to the big screen, but Gale, after his recent movie debut, is hoping for a small part. He certainly won't play himself. Nor is Hoffman supposed to be originally chose the role of a reporter covering the story. But the star, having spent time with Gale, is said to be having second thoughts.

"It was obvious to me from the inception that he wanted to be a doctor. He is one of those guys who had not been an actor would have been a doctor," says Gale.

Gale is encouraging him to play the doctor. The dinner last Friday was to be mainly about that. After all who would pass an opportunity to have Dustin Hoffman as a double. Not Gale, who owes many of his achievements to his own hard work and much of his success to publicity.

Safe haven....for life

Cost: £100,000

IT HAS been dubbed 'one of the most desirable properties in Scotland', yet it stands in the centre of a dump, filled with charred wrecks and overgrown weeds.

And, while it may be on the local bus route and conveniently situated for parks and shops, who would want to pay a £100,000 for a crumbling brick construction which looks more like an old stable?

Well, the answer is someone who wants to survive Armageddon.

Faced with the crippling rates bill, Lothian Regional Council has decided to sell their most unusual property ever... An underground and totally unused nuclear shelter.

And advertisement placed in a local newspaper read: "For sale: A Nuclear Bunker That Won't Cost You A

Bomb!" It was accompanied by a picture of a one-megaton missile hurtling towards earth.

The only thing the council can assure the hopeful buyer is that it is built to last.

Brian Fallon, the councillor chosen to sell the eyesore says: "Selling something like this is really refreshing."

"Our conveyancing usually extends to unwanted police homes or bus stops, but a bomb shelter... that's something else."

In 1952 at the height of the Cold War, the Ministry of Defence blasted a yawning chasm through Gorsestorphine Hill. The shelter was built as a safe site for Scottish Command Centre for the national Advance-Warning Radar System.

The building was shrouded in secrecy until it was handed over to Lothian three years

ago. Even now, all that is known about it is that its 88 rooms fell silent after ten years of use.

Yet a view into the 150 yard sloping entrance hall, shows just what it was originally built for. Dozens of discarded relics vividly recall the post-war paranoia.

Headsets still lie on top of the old, cord-connected telephone switchboard with sockets marked 'Bomber Command' and a sign instructing operators not to use the new PBX systems until 1300 hours on September 24, 1958.

Brian Fallon adds: "For £100,000 it will be bought either by a dedicated war enthusiast or an eccentric millionaire, who wants to protect his family."

"You never know, Michael Jackson might even be interested."



Strong: Brian Fallon closes the solid steel doors of the shelter



FAMILY DOCTOR
By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

PREGNANCY REQUIRES CLOSE SCRUTINY OF ALL MEDICATIONS

Question: My daughter is now carrying my first grandchild, and I want everything to be just perfect. However, I think she is taking pills that might be dangerous for the baby. I should like you to publish a list of medications that are dangerous to take during pregnancy. I think you have many other readers who would be grateful to you for this information.

Answer: Your question has much merit, and I considered the answer and began to do my research. I was astonished at both the need for this type of information as well as the number of medications that would have to be listed. In consulting my most recent edition of the United States Pharmacopoeial Convention publication, *Advice for the Patient*, I discovered five full pages of fine print, listing hundreds of therapeutic preparations that require a long second look. As stated in the preface to this section, "The use of any medicine during pregnancy must be carefully considered. The physician and the patient must balance the expected benefits against the possible risks."

To my thinking, that means any preparation, liquid or in capsule form, injected or taken intravenously, eyedrops, skin creams, or in fact by any route of administration must be considered in the light of the possible risks to the unborn. Each medication should be carefully researched, using the publications of the US Pharmacopoeial Convention, "The Physician's Desk Reference" or package inserts provided with the medications. No type of medication is exempt.

My list, which unfortunately is much too long to reproduce here, includes analgesics, antibiotics, antihistamines, sedatives, and anxiety agents, antidepressants, cortisone-like medications, laxatives and douches. No form of medication is excluded, and all the body's systems are included. Products used in some forms of radiological imaging as well as castor oil and caffeine are also listed.

During this most important period of your daughter's life, all things must be suspect, and that will continue into the breast-feeding period as well, where the list is almost as long. It may not be unwise to visit your local library to review this publication and the listings that appear in Appendix IV and V. Perhaps your physician may have a copy to lend you.

Elvis Presley's dream car Showbiz dazzlemobile

ONCE rock king Elvis Presley dreamed a golden dream... of having a customised car with more extras than Ben Hur. It was to be the ultimate showbusiness dazzlemobile.

So Elvis went along to his friend, George Barris, who customises anything that moves on four wheels for his Hollywood customers.

Nothing is exotic, outlandish or expensive enough to make George so much as blink through his designer shades. He has created everything from a fur-covered Batmobile to the auto-intelligent Knight Rider car.

Together George and Elvis, who lodged with him when he first came to the movie capital, drew up plans for the star's dream car.

There was to be gold everywhere, as befitting showbusiness's gilded son. Even the car phone and television set were set to sparkle with a covering of gold. And it was planned to embed three gold 45 Elvis Presley records in the rear head-rest.

Elvis died before the car could be built. George sadly tucked the plans away in a drawer... But a firm persuaded him to blow the

The King of Rock designed the ultimate car, with everything from gold plated bumpers and wheels to a gilded TV set. He died before the car could be built — but the dream he loved so tender has come true at last.

dust off them and make the dream into reality. The super-customised 1965 Cadillac El Dorado, worth \$250,000, recently toured America to promote Elvis Presley cosmetics.

It is all there, just as the King of Rock dreamed... the car's bodywork glitters with 40 coats of hand-rubbed, pure gold pearl essence and gold leaf.

There are gold-plated bumpers, grill, rear-view mirror, steering wheel, racing wheels and a hand-made Cadillac bonnet ornament.

There are stereo and laser disc systems. And the car's carpets are made of fur. Elvis would have loved it too.

The golden dream car is now touring America. On January 8 next year — Elvis Presley's birth-

day — it will be awarded to the winner of a sweepstake. The keys will be handed over at a ceremony at the Presley home, Graceland, in Tennessee.

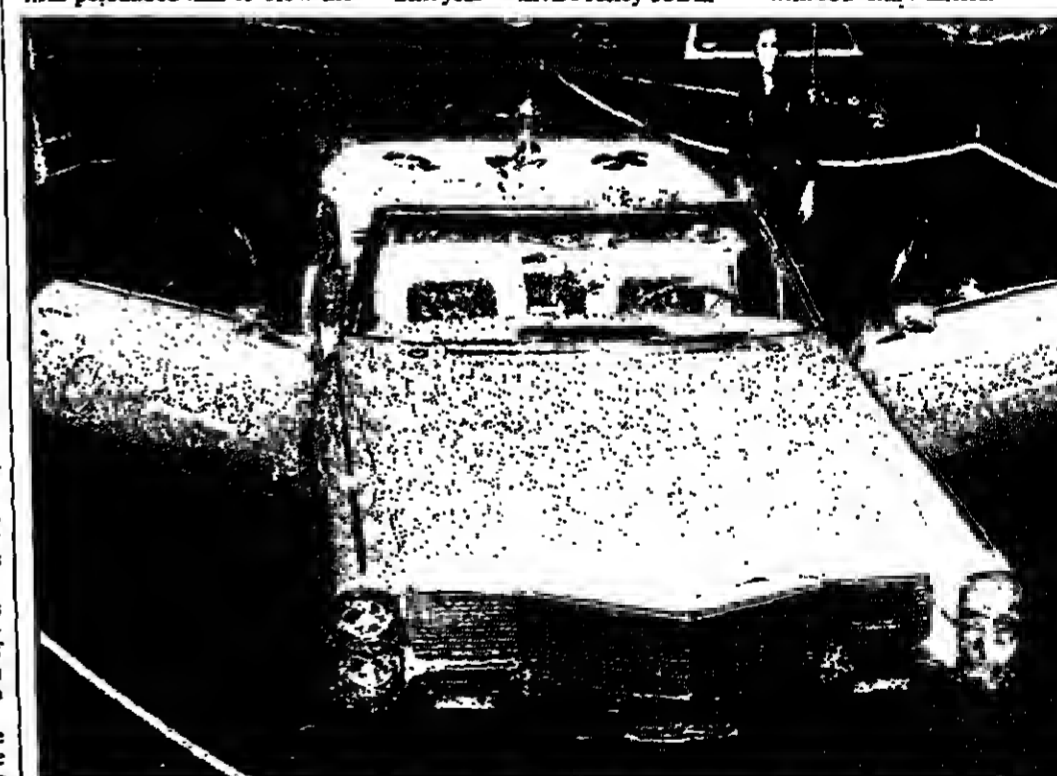
Gary Scaife, who makes Love Me Tender cosmetics under licence, said: "George made several of Elvis's cars and motorcycles. They designed this one together."

"Elvis wanted to include in it all the sizzle he had in the other vehicles, to make this the Presley show-business car. Unfortunately, he never lived to be able to drive it."

"The plans were stuck in a drawer. George remembered them when we approached him to see if there were something we could do for the Presley fans, who have been 100 per cent behind my company."

"George told me the story of this car and I said, 'That sounds like a dream car. Why don't we build it and give it away to one of the fans?' And that is just what we are doing."

Nobody has yet worked out the answer to the nightmare of parking the golden dream car. For it is sure to be top of the pops with souvenir hunters.



Spectacular — the dream car Elvis never lived to drive was designed by George Barris and built at a cost of \$250,000.



Sturdy: the 150-yard sloping entrance hall built to withstand a nuclear explosion



Sami Salama: ethnic voice

Spectrum — a new station for ethnic Arabs of London

By Max de Lotbiniere

LONDON, (WNL): "The idea was to have some sort of media to communicate with my people," explains Sami Salama, a 42-year-old Egyptian who came to London 15 years ago. All he had was a farming degree, but along with it, a lot of determination. Now he is one of the founding directors of Spectrum Radio, a unique multi-ethnic radio station which is set to start broadcasting in London this April. "I decided to leave Egypt when I finished my studies. It was the beginning of the 1970s. Everyone had high expectations, but I knew there was nothing I could do to change the situation, so I changed countries."

Now Salama is in the midst of the final frantic preparations for a minor revolution in British radio. Headmits that setting up a radio station in Egypt would have been almost impossible, but even here, the idea of an independent station serving eight ethnic communities was until recently just a dream.

From the outside, Spectrum Radio today is an unimpressive sight: it is housed in one of those box-like, single-story portable buildings in an empty lot in North London. Inside, though, are two fully-equipped studios and a

mass of hi-fi and recording equipment. It is also a base for Salama and his other co-founders as well as a chief executive.

What makes Spectrum unique, not just in London but worldwide, is its structure. It is an umbrella under which eight different ethnic minorities have pooled their resources and skills working with each other to talk to ethnic communities in their own language. Spectrum's airtime will be divided into broadcasts in Arabic, Hebrew, Urdu, Chinese, Spanish, Italian, Greek and Afro-Caribbean languages. Broadcast on the AM band, it will cover the whole Greater London area.

Airwaves

Salama was determined to bring London Arabs together. While not the largest ethnic community, Arabs from all over the Middle East, from Saudi royalty to Moroccan migrant workers, have made their homes there. For a dozen years, Salama, who is a married father of two, worked in different jobs, as a night-club manager, a tour guide and in his own building and decorating firm. But his idea stayed with him: "I felt the Arab community in London lacked a voice and needed some form of media to communicate without barriers," he explains.

The question of what media to use was soon

resolved with the appearance of pirates on London's airwaves in the early 1980s. Britain has always prided itself on its high broadcasting standards and until only seven years ago the BBC on Londoners' radios offered only four BBC and two commercial channels with only minimal reference to local ethnic communities. There had been pirate radios before and the most famous, Radio Caroline, still evades government inspectors by broadcasting from a ship anchored in the Channel.

The 1980s and the arrival of cheaper technologies saw pirate radios mushrooming all over the city, broadcasting on the FM band from makeshift studios installed at the top of high-rise housing blocks. Their number was not always there, and most fed the capital a strict diet of booming disco music.

The first new voice to be heard was that of an illegal radio station in northeast London. The station, now long gone along with many other pirates, gave Salama the inspiration he was seeking: "When I heard the Greeks, I thought, if they can do it, so can the Arabs," he recalls. "I didn't know how to set up a radio station and wasn't easy. You have to know a good engineer who can build a transmitter.

From there you start by learning from your mistakes."

All he had by way of experience was some work in the theater and television in Cairo. It wasn't much, but says Salama, it gave him confidence. Arab Community Radio, as he called it, went on the air at the beginning of Ramadan, the Muslim month of fasting, in 1985. "I began programmes at about 5 pm. We relayed prayers and people would then break their fast. From 9 pm to 1 am we put on entertainment like quizzes and shows recorded off Egyptian radio. We also played music and the broadcast would end at dawn when people started fasting again."

For Arabs in London, Ramadan is a social time when the community comes together. "The radio was very important because it was like bringing people home," Salama adds. The response from those early days when the studio was in Salama's kitchen was encouraging. People telephoned all the time and he soon realized he had a wide audience among women and young people as well as Arab tourists in London. The radio, run by Salama almost single-handed, was supported financially by the community and with advertising.

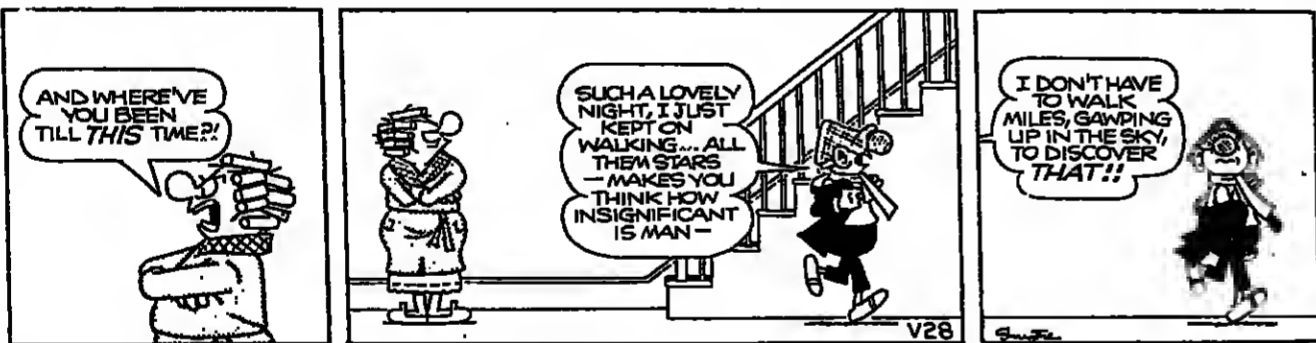
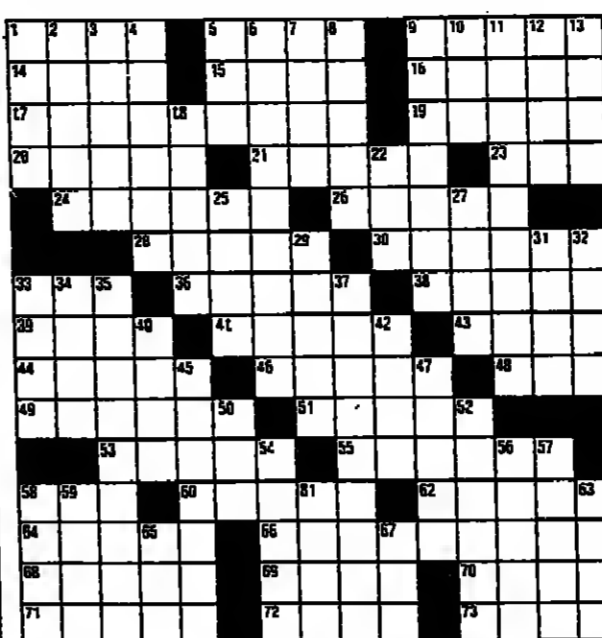
It was not long before the station came to the attention of the Department of Trade and

Industry (DTI) — the agency responsible for policing the airwaves — and Arab Community Radio, along with other ethnic pirate stations, was repeatedly raided. Although the government seized equipment, the pirates would set up again elsewhere.

In 1984, Salama and other pirates began to campaign together for legal access by ethnic groups to radio. That was the foundation of Spectrum Radio. A year later the group submitted applications for community licenses.

But bureaucratic tangles led pirates like Salama back to their transmitters and illegal broadcasts. Between raids, Salama continued developing links with his own community: "I was surprised to hear from the Moroccan community. They are working people and many, particularly the wives and mothers do not speak English. I do not understand their Arabic, but they were phoning in to say they could understand me."

In 1988, the last year of Arabic Community Radio, the DTI admits it raided Salama five times, but on Jan 1, 1989, he closed down the station of his own accord. Meanwhile, Spectrum had become a legally recognized consortium that had received a local government grant which enabled it to set up studios and a permanent base.

BLONDIE — By Dean Young & Stan Drake**HAGAR THE HORRIBLE** — By Dik Browne**AGATHA CRUMM** — By Bill Foy**BEETLE BAILEY** — By Mark Walker**THE WIZARD OF ID** — By Brent Parker & Johnny Hart**ANDY CAPP****B.C.** — By Johnny Hart**HE-MAN** — By G. Forton & J. Shull**TODAY'S CROSSWORD****ACROSS**

1 Cookers for Chinese food
5 Weather forecast
9 "This Happy" film
14 "...like —, I go to find my fawn".
15 Ox of the Celebes
16 Related maternally
17 Polaris
19 Squander
20 Muse of poetry
21 Boredom
23 Highland headcover
24 Disturbed the nocturnal peace
26 Perfume basis
28 Refined stuff
30 On the go
33 Author Wallace
35 Overfull
38 Crude ebode
39 Midianite
41 Ledger word
43 Flanigan Peter
44 Shillong is its capital
46 Anton or Anthony
48 Made haste
49 Hold
51 Makes a stab at
53 Highlander's tartan wrap
55 Choice groups
58 Cambodian's neighbor
60 Down days for the team
62 Icy
64 Troy
66 Amundsen's

DOWN

1 1911 target
2 Heavenly food
3 Japanese instrument
4 Sign on a shop door
5 Palm or nut
6 Flinders river
7 Barber's call
8 Ebb
9 Scents
10 Holy book
11 Bouts
12 Existed
13 Precedes
14 Horse of a certain color
15 Seine feeder
16 Charm
17 A nucleic acid: Abbr.
18 New York City waterway
19 End for Henn
20 Consider
21 Egyptian hawk-headed god
22 "Born in the —"
23 Zounds!

ACROSS

27 Harrow's rival
29 Disprove
31 Vague of Hollywood
32 North Carolina campus
33 Washer amount
34 Gaelic
35 The Cadet's march here
37 Ill-fame
40 False god
42 Follow
45 Swampy
47 Stable sound
50 Zero
52 — it (hurry)
54 Like early evening
56 Marry in haste
57 Heat-resistant glass
58 Branch
59 Wings
61 Bovine comments
63 Make an impression
65 French numeral
67 Anderson's "High —"

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GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 96542 ♠ J63 ♠ Q8 ♠ 1053
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Dbl ?
What action do you take?

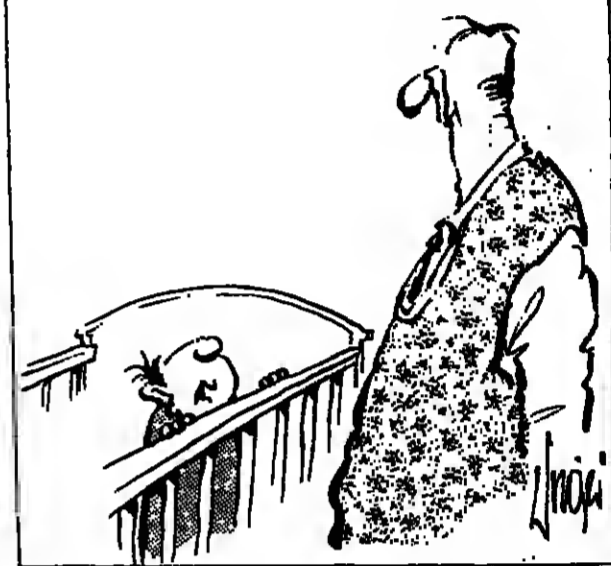
Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 96542 ♠ 6 ♠ KJ83 ♠ 732
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Dbl ?
What action do you take?

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ K762 ♠ 83 ♠ QJ95 ♠ Q72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Dbl ?
What action do you take?

Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ K762 ♠ A3 ♠ QJ95 ♠ J72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Dbl ?
What action do you take?

Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 83 ♠ AQ95 ♠ QJ95 ♠ K102
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Dbl ?
What action do you take?

Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 83 ♠ Q105 ♠ QJ95 ♠ K1042
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Dbl ?
What action do you take?



"If you don't mind me saying so, telling me that an old man with a beard is gonna come creeping in here tonight is not the best way to get me to fall asleep."

"Well done, luv! You've knocked four-fifths off your best time!"

**YOUR STARS**

Aries
March 21 - April 20

You will be in a rather better mood but must make sure you do not overdo things. Do not expect others to agree with you all the time. Everything will tend to take longer so do not slacken the pace. Be sincere.



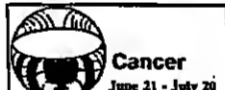
Taurus
April 21 - May 20

Take another look at something you have been tending to take for granted. Keep your objectives more firmly in mind and try not to let your mind wander. You will be able to assist a friend and should do so. Be respectful.



Gemini
May 21 - June 20

Avoid trying to do too much all at once although there is no harm in changing the subject from one relevant thing to another. Take a little better care of your health. Do all you can to maintain harmony. Be tactful.



Cancer
June 21 - July 20

You should not trust a stranger too soon, but there is no reason for excessive suspicion either. Your lucky numbers are 44 and 21. You will have some success but do not just leave it there. Avoid exaggerations and do not exceed safe limits.



Leo
July 21 - Aug 21

Avoid fighting against what is inevitable, but do not simply let things happen. You will be tempted to do something against your better judgment, don't. Do not allow your attention to stray from the subject. Be moderate.



Virgo
Aug 22 - Sept 21

Not everything is as it seems to be so take extra care. Nor should you believe all or even most of what you hear. There is however nothing to be gained by being too critical and/or cynical. Be more matter of fact.



Libra
Sept 22 - Oct 21

You will find it difficult to get to the bottom of a fault. However if you persevere you will find it: it is really something quite simple. Try not to get too upset about a slight setback, it will be overcome. Be polite.



Scorpio
Oct 22 - Nov 21

Avoid doing anything very much out of the ordinary just now. There will be a tendency to disperse your efforts which must be resisted. Take better care when using the road, driving, cycling or just walking. Be reasonable.



Sagittarius
Nov 22 - Dec 21

Appearances will tend to deceive, so try to look beneath the surface. Do not expect to have everything your own way. You are more liable to mislay things, so watch out. Be less extravagant.



Capricorn
Dec 22 - Jan 19

There is no easy answer to one of your problems, only you are out looking in the right place for it. Try to do as much as possible by yourself rather than relying on others. And make sure you are not bogged down in detail.



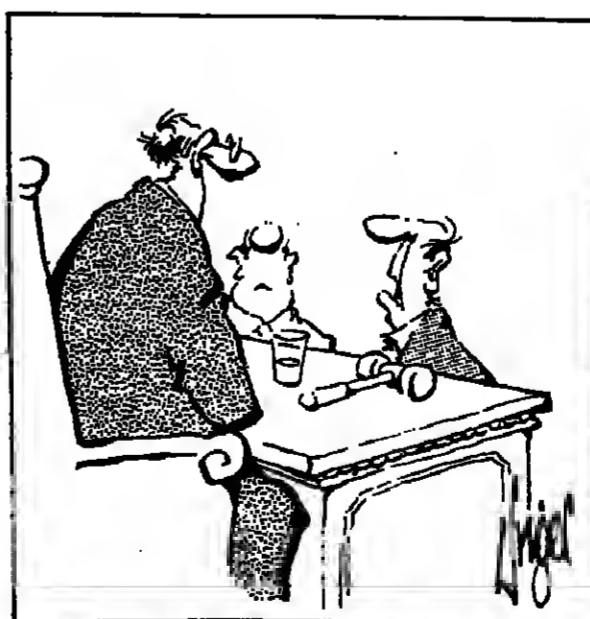
Aquarius
Jan 20 - Feb 19

Something you have been tending to take for granted will take you rather by surprise. You should read the instructions to a new device most carefully before trying to use it. Make sure you do not let a friend down. Be generous.

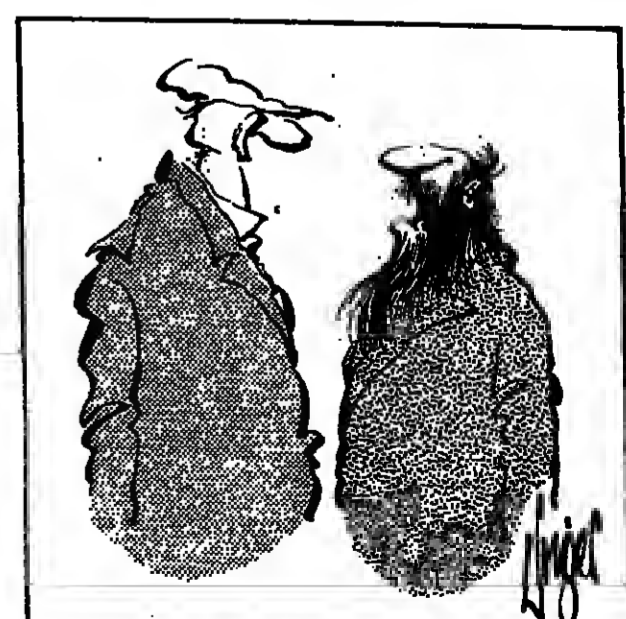


Pisces
Feb 20 - March 20

You will be able to do something to improve relations with your children and grandparents. You will more easily lose your way so do not hesitate to consult a map. You should resist a temptation to eat too many sweet things. Be more considerate.



"He stole \$15 million, your honor, and he wants to plead 'guilty' with an explanation."



"She gave me aftershave for Christmas, so I gave her beauty soap."

ARAB TIMES Classifieds

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VP-B286-16A	20.1 MHzs 17.8 - SI

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ACCOMMODATION

For Rent

KEIFAN, Area 4, Muna Street, House No. 7, beside the Co-operative branch. Mulhaq with 2 bedrooms. Kitchen and bathroom. Tel. 4831178.

(AT5-151601-3)

BAYAN, 2 storey villa, CAC 3 bedrooms, 3 halls, servant's quarter including garage and garden. Rent KD 650. Tel. 5324848.

(AT4-51503-3)

AMMAN Street, near Madrasa Sindabad, 2 bedroom flat with or without furniture. Rent KD110. Tel. Mr. Chachra, 4812386 off, 5614689 Res.

(AT5-51623-3)

RUMATHIYA, on the main street, beside the sea 1 floor of villa, 3 bedrooms, 1 hall, 1 saloon, 2 bathrooms, 1 kitchen including, mulhaq, for European families. Tel. 4836185, 5637934, 5641368.

(AT3-51575-3)

Available

KUWAIT City, Sharq, behind the Firdous cinema, House 87, rooms in Arabic type villa for Indian, Sri Lankan, Bangladeshi, or Filipino families. Contact Francis personally, evenings.

(AT4-51580-3)

SALWA, part of ground floor, preferably for a European couple. Tel. 5753101, 8-9 pm.

(AT4-51592-3)

RUMATHIYA, a fully furnished house with tele. and kitchen facilities for a bachelor or working lady. Tel. 5613895.

(AT4-51433-3)

SHARQ, near the bus stop. Spacious room with or without meals for 2 bachelors or working girls. Tel. Mrs. Saffar, 2453924, 8 am - 1.30 pm, 6 - 8.30 pm.

(AT5-51601-3)

SHARQ, behind the fire brigade, 4 bedroom apartment, available from March. Rent KD170. Tel. 2419327, upto 6 pm.

(AT5-51604-3)

FARWANIYA, One room with kitchen facilities, for single or two bachelors, in a 2-bedroom flat. Very convenient location. Tel. Carvalho, 2418634, 2418550.

(AT5-51613-3)

SALMIYA, near the fire station. Spacious room with water, electricity and tele. facilities for Indian, Sri Lankan couples or working ladies/bachelors. Tel. Rocky/Shobha, 5738802.

(AT4-51581-3)

SALWA, House 196, Block 7, Area 4, one room with water, electricity and separate kitchen for a family or bachelors to share with an Indian family. Rent KD50. Tel. 5611243.

(AT5-51603-3)

SALMIYA, beside the Indian/Pakistani School, fully furnished accommodation for a small family, available from 17th March to 10th June 1990. Tel. 5634641, after 3 pm.

(AT5-51607-2)

QADISIYA, Area 4, Street 45, House 16. Three rooms with water, electricity and tele. facilities for Pakistani and Indian families. Bus routes 16, 18, 14, 37. Tel. Mrs. Zahida, 2520249, after 5 pm.

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Friesenneger disqualified in final race

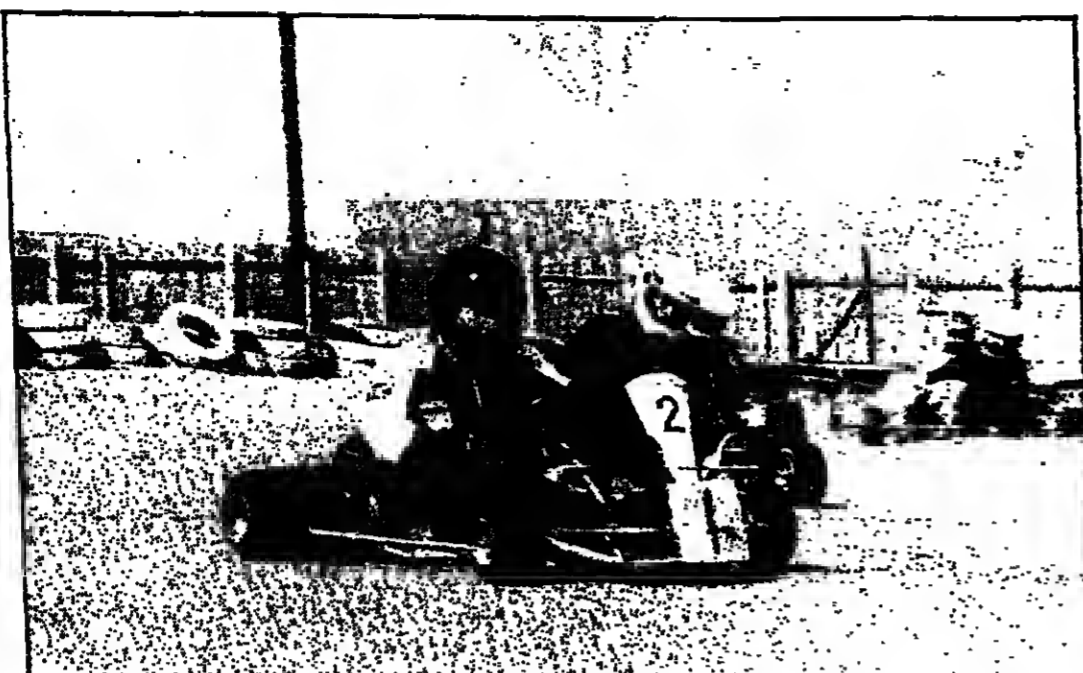
Lloyd captures Avis Trophy

ON a Friday which started out being somewhat dusty, the conditions cleared to become perfect, enabling a grid of twelve drivers to provide an entertaining afternoon's racing for the honour of lifting the Avis Car Rental Sponsorship Trophy, which was eventually won by Simon Lloyd with David Haines second and Tom Bollig third.

The meeting consisted of four heats, each of ten laps plus a fifteen lap final on a track with a 672 metre configuration; and from the very start, the promise of drama and excitement was fulfilled in the first heat, when Simon Lloyd, who had drawn pole position on the starting grid powered his way round Cluh House bend to stave off the early challenge of David Haines with Tom Bollig tucking into third position. Unluckily for Bollig, he was not to complete a second lap as he spun out on the bottom hairpin.

By the third lap the leadership remained with Lloyd in front just ahead of Haines with Peter Wakely having moved into Bollig's vacated third spot but again this was to be Wakely's last lap when he too became a victim of the testing circuit.

It was at this point when Peter Friesenneger moved up from



Lloyd (kart No. 1) holding off David Haines (No. 2).

fourth to third, which was to prove the finishing positions of the first heat, being 1st Lloyd; 2nd Haines; 3rd Friesenneger. It is worthy of note that the Cluh's youngest driver, sixteen year-old Kieron Dick who at the first lap was in ninth position, beavered his way through a competitive

field by a combination of both skill and determination to finish fourth in the first heat.

The second heat showed some superb driving from both Haines and Lloyd who started at the back of the grid and by the completion of the third lap, had surged through the field to hold first

and second positions respectively for the rest of the heat. Here again, young Dick held on to third position just beating Wakely's challenge.

Misfortune was to strike Wakely in the two rolling-lap warm-up before the start of the third heat when his steering gear came adrift and he was forced to retire forfeiting his second row grid position. Again the familiar Haines and Lloyd battle was staged throughout the heat, whilst Friesenneger, in his Mahdi-Hahih sponsored kart, fought to retain his third position, which he managed to achieve for five laps only before his engine seized causing this retirement from the heat. Dick, who started on the back row of the grid, again swept through the field in superb style to finish third in the heat.

The fourth and last of the heats ran with all the excitement of the earlier heats and without mishap through to establish the grid

positions for the final race which was to reveal who would lift the Avis Car Rental Sponsorship Trophy.

No one could have foreseen the drama and excitement that was to follow, when Haines and Lloyd, who had predictably earned pole and antipole positions (front line) on the grid, collided violently on Cluh House bend at the start of the third of this fifteen lap race. Both karts spun and stalled, there was a flurry of yellow warning flags to alert following drivers of danger around the bend. The passing of all karts allowed Haines and Lloyd to restart, with Haines being the first away leaving Lloyd finding the restart a little more difficult. Meanwhile it was Friesenneger who capitalised on their misfortune and took the lead with Dick in second position and Neil Gardner in the British Liason Team kart third having started the final on the second row of the grid which was his best ever position.

It was only seconds later, on the hairpin following the banked-bend that Dick and Gardner were forced to retire following a collision. This put Tom Bollig in his Halliburton-sponsored kart into second position which was immediately challenged by Wakely.

The superb driving skills of Haines took him progressively through the field to regain the lead four laps later. Lloyd continued to fight hard and drove like a man possessed, and he succeeded in battling his way back through the field into third position during the five laps following the collision with Haines, but he could make no further impression on Friesenneger, and these proved to be the positions in which they eventually crossed the line.

Although the racing was over, the drama was not; a protest was lodged by Lloyd over the incident on the third lap and was



Lloyd (centre), with David Haines and Tom Bollig after receiving their prizes from Hovic Thorossian (left).

upheld by David Rogers, the Clerk of the Course. This meant that Haines was to drop one place from his finishing position which would have reversed Haines and Friesenneger, but the rules of karting are strict, and, in accordance with the rule, the weighing of karts and drivers found Friesenneger to be some twelve pounds under weight. This automatically led to disqualification, and the result was

therefore declared as 1st Simon Lloyd; 2nd David Haines; 3rd a pleasantly surprised Tom Bollig. The trophies were presented by Hovic Thorossian, sales manager of Avis Car Rentals whose sponsorship had provided a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon's racing, which, judging by the applause of the sizeable crowd, was duly endorsed by all present.

Although the next meeting is

not until March 2, there will be an opportunity for the public to test-drive karts on Friday Feb 23. For further information contact David Burfoot, Public Relations Committee member of the Kart Club, Tel. 5732956. Don't forget the Middle-Eastern Kart championship to be held at Ahmadi March 15/16 with teams expected from UK, Austria, Cyprus, Malaysia, Dubai, Muscat and many more.

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2. Name the player who scored the most goals in a single tournament?
3. Who will win the Gulf Cup Tournament held in Kuwait 1990?

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Johnson to retire by end of year

CRESTED BUTTE, Colorado, Feb 20, (AP) — Downhill skier Bill Johnson says he will retire from amateur ski racing by the end of this year, meaning the US Alpine Championships under way here will be his last race of any consequence.

"It's been a long, good career," Johnson said Sunday. "My back's bothering me a little bit, and it's time to go on to something else."

Johnson, who will turn 30 next month, plans to make a formal announcement of his plans at a news conference this evening. His career options reportedly include becoming Crested Butte resort's official spokesman and a possible stint in coaching, either on the US Tour or in Japan.

Johnson won the 1984 Olympic downhill at Sarajevo on a glider's course. But he said his three World Cup victories that year are more important to him.

"They were all sweet wins," Johnson said. "But in Sarajevo, there were only four Swis, four Austrians, and the competition wasn't as tough as a World Cup. I always felt the World Cup was more important than the Olympics, as far as the racers are concerned."

Johnson failed to qualify for the World Cup squad this year, and he has been competing in the United States against skiers half his age.

"I had so much fun over the years, I don't think I'd change much," Johnson said. "Really, the only regrets were not keeping my form after '84."

Sulaiman not quitting WBC post

MEXICO CITY, Feb 20, (Reuters) — World Boxing Council president Jose Sulaiman will not resign from his post because of his part in the controversy following the James "Buster" Douglas-Mike Tyson heavyweight championship bout, a WBC official said yesterday.

"On Wednesday the presidents of the (boxing) federations will meet to discuss a 10-point agenda. Jose Sulaiman will oversee the discussion and this office roundly denies that there is any possibility of him resigning," WBC executive secretary Eduardo Lamazon said in a statement.

Rumours of Sulaiman's impending resignation were widely reported following his decision to withhold recognition of Douglas as world heavyweight champion after the

challenger's stunning 10th-round knockout of Tyson in Tokyo on Feb 11.

Promoter Don King and Tyson's handlers disputed his loss to Douglas, saying a long count by referee Octavio Meyran enabled Douglas to overcome an eight round knockdown.

A storm of controversy followed a decision by the WBC and the World Boxing Association (WBA) — boxing's principle governing bodies — to suspend the result in order to consider the protest.

The WBC and WBA last week recognised Douglas as undisputed champion following nearly unanimous condemnation of the decision to suspend the result.

Sulaiman came under fire for initially taking Tyson's side in the dispute and it has

been suggested by many boxing writers and officials that Sulaiman's resignation was the WBC's best hope of regaining credibility.

Pancreas and intestine problems sent Sulaiman, who has been WBC president since 1975, to the hospital last week further sparking rumours he would step down.

During the meeting set for tomorrow in Mexico City, WBC officials will discuss the controversial fight and are expected to rule on whether Douglas and Tyson should meet for an immediate rematch.

Douglas' manager, John Johnson, has said that his fighter would first take in number one contender Evander Holyfield and that Douglas might not fight Tyson before next year.

Trevino happy to be on top again

NAPLES, Florida, Feb 20, (AP) — Golfer Lee Trevino figures he has pleased those who predicted he would dominate on the Seniors Tour, but he's happiest about picking up first-place trophies again.

"I don't keep numbers. I don't want to keep a record of what I do," Trevino said after his second victory in his first three Seniors' events. "I do know that there were a lot of people talking about what I was going to do and what I wasn't going to do."

"The guys who were saying what I was going to do are saying: I told you so."

On Sunday, Trevino shot a final-round 67 for a 1-shot victory in the Aetna Challenge. He picked up \$60,000 and another trophy to add to a collection that includes 27 from the OGA Tour.

"There's no better feeling than to stand out there after the last putt is made and get a trophy," Trevino said. "It goes in a box with the rest of them I have at home, but that's not the thing."

The thing is to get it in your hand. "His 16-under-par 200 over the par-72 course at the club at Pelican Bay was another weekend of golf at the top of his form."

"I'm in a groove," he said. "How long I'm going to stay in that groove, I have no idea. I've just hit a lot of golf balls, I've paid the price. Since Sept 20, I've been practicing every day."

Trevino said he doesn't want anyone, particularly his fellow seniors, to think he considers the Tour a cakewalk.

"I want to be friends with all these guys," Trevino said. "Not once have I ever downgraded them or anything. I'm playing extremely well. Hopefully, I can keep it going all year long."

Breland plans to thrash Honeyghan

NEW YORK, Feb 20, (Reuters) — World welterweight champion Mark Breland said he plans to punch Lloyd Honeyghan into retirement when the British boxer challenges him for his title on March 3.

American Breland, the World Boxing Association (WBA) titleholder, said in a telephone interview on Sunday from his Florida training camp: "He (Honeyghan) realises that if he loses that is it for him and I plan on making it for him."

The fight is at London's Wembley Arena.

Gildemeister fights back to beat Hanika

WASHINGTON, Feb 20, (Reuters) — Sixth seed Laura Gildemeister of Peru showed that she has the game to move back into the top-20 as she rallied to beat Sylvia Hanika in the first round of the \$350,000 Washington Tennis Tournament yesterday.

Gildemeister, ranked 21 in the world, fought back from a set and 0-2 deficit to down the hard-serving West German 4-6 6-4 6-2 for her first win against Hanika in four meetings.

Top seed Martina Navratilova, who is going after her 10th title here, and the other top seeds — American Zina Garrison, Monica Seles of Yugoslavia and Natalia Zvereva of the Soviet Union — received first round byes in the 28-player event.

In other first round play, 66th-ranked Claudia Kohde-Kilsch of West Germany served her way past 54th-ranked South African-born Dinky van Rensburg 6-1 4-6 6-3 and South African-born American Rosalyn Fairbank lost a third set tiebreak 7-5 to fall to Ann Grossman of the US.

Hanika, a former top-10 player now ranked 34th in the world, confused the sixth seed in



Kohde-Kilsch, outplayed Van Rensburg

the first set by serving repeatedly to Gildemeister's two-fisted backhand.

Gildemeister appeared to find

the answer after the opening set however, as she broke the West German six times in the last two sets. In the first set Hanika faced

just one break point which she saved with a service winner.

Gildemeister, who took an 18-month break from the tour to have a baby, said the time away from the game had rekindled her desire to regain the top 20-ranking she held in 1984.

"I came back after having the baby and practiced harder than ever, with more enthusiasm," Gildemeister said.

"I always lose to (Hanika) and today I showed I can beat people that I had trouble with even when I was at my best. Maybe, I haven't seen my best yet," she said.

In Philadelphia, Canadian Andrew Sznajder repeatedly fought back from the brink of defeat to advance to the second round of the one million-dollar US Pro Indoor Tennis Tournament yesterday.

With the top sixteen seeds, led by fourth-ranked John McEnroe, fifth-ranked Brad Gilbert and sixth-ranked Andre Agassi, all receiving byes into the second round, some of the lesser known players held the opening day spotlight.

Sznajder's tenacious comeback was easily the highlight of the day as he scored a 6-2 4-6 7-6

victory over 87th-ranked John Fitzgerald of Australia.

John Fitzgerald squandered a 4-0 third set lead and failed to convert six match points before the Canadian won the thrilling tiebreak 9-7.

"To Andrew's credit he fought hard," Fitzgerald said. "He's real tenacious, a good fighter, a good competitor."

The 65th-ranked Sznajder, Canada's number one player, admitted that he did not think he could pull out the match.

"To tell the truth, my thoughts were I was out of it," Sznajder said. "All I decided to do was put the ball in play and if he came up with a winner, fine."

In other first round action, Petr Korda of Czechoslovakia, fresh from reaching the quarterfinals in Toronto last week, overwhelmed American Lawson Duncan 6-3 6-1 and Kelly Evernden of New Zealand ousted American Jimmy Brown 6-3 7-5.

The often injured Korda, 22, said his modest goal for 1990 was to stay healthy.

"I hope it will be a good year in 1990," Korda said. "I don't want to be sick and injured because then you can't play tennis and make a good ranking."

فكرنا من الراس

SPORTS BRIEFS

Egypt inconsistent

CAIRO, Feb. 20. (AP): Consistency may be the boggy of little minds, but it's a hallmark of a winning soccer team. And England manager Bobby Robson finds it lacking in Egypt's 1990 World Cup entry. Robson, whose England team is in Egypt's group in the championships next summer to Italy, spoke his mind after watching the Egyptians play two 0-0 draws in warmup matches.

Kasparov wins

LINARES, Spain Feb. 20. (Reuters): Soviet world champion Garry Kasparov beat British grandmaster Nigel Short in 47 moves in the second round of the Linares Chess Tournament yesterday. The game was closely fought though Kasparov himself admitted the quality of play was not high.

Proven strengths

ALICANTE, Spain, Feb. 20. (Reuters): Spain will rely on the proven strengths of Real Madrid and Barcelona veterans for their World Cup soccer warm-up against fellow finalists Czechoslovakia tomorrow. The warm-up in the Mediterranean city of Alicante is likely to be tough, with players eager to book places in the World Cup finals in Italy.

NBA games

NEW YORK, Feb. 20. (Reuters): Results of National Basketball Association (NBA) games played yesterday:

Chicago Bulls	107	Houston	102
Dallas	96	Cleveland	87
Sacramento	99	LA Clippers	97
Detroit	94	Miami Heat	85
Denver	114	Golden S.	109
Utah Jazz	115	Philadelphia	102

Wightman Cup

LONDON, Feb. 20. (AP): This year's Wightman Cup women's tennis tournament between the United States and Britain was cancelled today, the victim of recent American domination of one of the sport's oldest events.

1,500m showdown

GLASGOW, Scotland, Feb. 20. (AP): Peter Elliot and Jens-Peter Herald, silver and bronze medalists in the 1988 Olympic 1,500 metres, will have a showdown over the distance indoors Friday night.

Boxing journey

HAVANA, Feb. 20. (Reuters): Lightweight Livian Blanco and mid-weight Orestes Solano confirmed Cuba's boxing talent is alive and well on Sunday night by winning their eliminatory bouts in the first phase of the sixth World Boxing Cup.

LPGA event

LONDON, Feb. 20. (Reuters): The first official Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) Tour event to be played in continental Europe will be staged at the Cely Club, 50 kms outside Paris, from October 11-14, the organisers announced yesterday.

Racing team

BRUSSELS, Feb. 20. (Reuters): The Belgian owner of the Onyx motor racing team said yesterday he was pulling out of formula one to a row over the supply of engines by West German car manufacturer Porsche.

E. German coach

BONN, Feb. 20. (Reuters): Horst-Dieter Hill, one of East Germany's most successful athletics coaches, has left the country to live in West Germany. Hill, who coached Renate Stecher to her 100 and 200 metres double triumph at the 1972 Munich Olympics, said yesterday he was dissatisfied with changes to East German sport since the fall of hardline communist rulers last year.

Baseball player

MILWAUKEE, Feb. 20. (AP): Paul Molitor became baseball's ninth player to average \$3 million per season when he agreed yesterday to \$9.1 million three-year contract with the Milwaukee Brewers.

National coach

CARDIFF, Feb. 20. (Reuters): Ex-Webb Rugby Union international Roo Waidson, who helped Neath become one of the most feared club sides in Britain, was appointed national coach yesterday nine hours after the resignation of predecessor John Ryan.

Asian Games

BEIJING, Feb. 20. (Reuters): Tight security at the Asian Games in Beijing will guard against hijacking, explosions, robbery and stadium riots, the official New China News Agency said.

NHL games

NEW YORK, Feb. 20. (Reuters): Results of National Hockey League (NHL) games played yesterday:

N.Y. Rangers	4	New Jersey	3
LA Kings	3	Washington	2
Montreal	3	Detroit	5

Speedbird Trophy

THERE have been certain changes in the Pakistan squad for the Speedbird Trophy, from the team already announced yesterday in this newspaper.

The new team comprises of the following players: Raees (CKK), captain; Amjad (Hawks), v. captain; Qaiser (Hawks); Khalid (Hawks); Zaheer (CKK); Faisal (CKK); Zagar (Crescent); Tariq (Crescent); Farhat (Crest); Assad Baig (Evergreen); Arshad (Evergreen); Shahbaz (Evergreen); Waqas; Zaidi (Evergreen); Asim (Forces).

The final 12 players will be chosen from the above names on the day of match. All players will have to bring their own gear, and report to captain and manager, Haji Sarfraz, at 9:00 am, Feb 25, 90.



Over 15,000 Ministry of Education students perform during the opening ceremonies of the Gulf Cup soccer tournament at the Kazma Stadium. (Pictures by Ahmed Barouni and Manzur)



Kuwait meet Bahrain in Gulf Cup opener

Over 15,000 students take part in opening ceremonies



Sheikh Nasser delivers his speech.



Sheikh Fahd addresses the gathering.



Students put on various displays to the tune of music.

(Continued from Page 1)

other shows, with the help of banners and portraits relating to the past and present achievements of the participating states.

The songs of the operetta were written by Sheikh Fahd and Kuwaiti song-writer Abdul Latif Al Bannay. The operetta was performed by Kuwait's prominent singers Abdul Karim Abdul Qadir and Abdullal Rewaished along with a number of school children.

Most of the other displayed colourful portraits in the background that concentrated on the heritage of the participating countries.

The opening match of the tournament will be played today at 3.45 pm between Kuwait and Bahrain, at the Peace and Friendship Stadium in Udayliya area (Kazma Club). One match will be played daily at the same stadium, except on the last two days of the tournament, when two matches will be played.

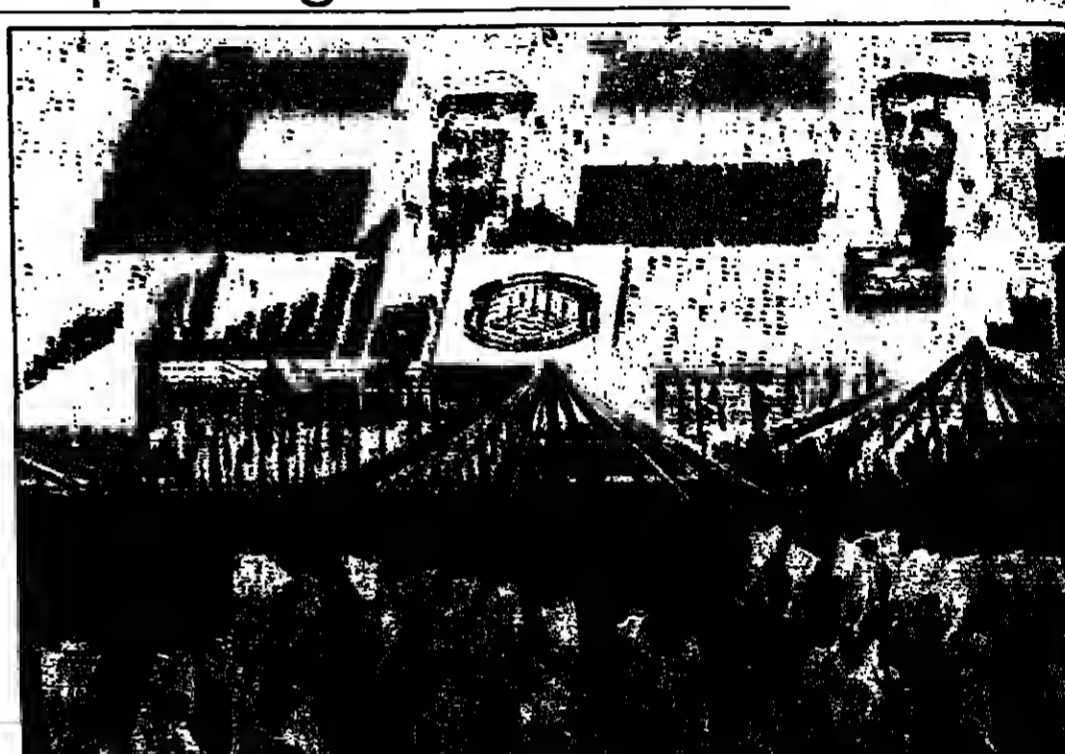
The Gulf Cup is played once every two years. It was first played in Bahrain in 1970 when only four Gulf teams participated — Bahrain, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Qatar. Kuwait won that tournament. Kuwait has won the event five times and alongside Iraq who won the title three times, are the only countries who won

the prestigious Gulf Cup.

According to the system of the tournament, which has remained unchanged except in one tournament only, each team has to play all the others once. The team which collects the maximum number of points is the champion. In case two or more teams collect equal points, a deciding match or more, in case of more than two teams in a tie, are played to declare the winner.

The Gulf Cup tournament has played an important role in improving the Gulf football. Many Gulf teams have qualified for the Olympic Games, World Cup finals and dominated Asian competitions over the last decade. Kuwait was the first to profit from the Gulf competitions and in 1980 won the Asian Championship and reached the soccer finals of the Moscow Olympic Games.

In 1982, Kuwait became the first Gulf and Arab Asian country to reach the World Cup finals in Spain. In 1984, 3 Gulf teams, Iraq, Qatar and Saudi Arabia won the Asian berths for the Los Angeles Olympic Games. In 1986, Iraq reached the World Cup finals for the first time and UAE has recently qualified to play in the World Cup finals in Italy. Since 1980, the Asian Cup has remained in the Gulf. Saudi Arabia won the premier Asian soccer title twice in 1984 and 1988.



Ministry of Education students go through their paces.



One of the singers (left) performs during the event while an avid fan listens attentively.

IOC commission against relaxation of anti-apartheid measures

By Jadranka Porter
Arab Times staff

A SPECIAL International Olympic Committee anti-apartheid commission yesterday urged against relaxation of anti-apartheid measures in sports as it proposed to continue a dialogue with official South African sports bodies.

A new round of contacts are to be initiated by the Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa (Anoca) that will sound out all South African sports organisations on the effect on sports of reforms recently announced by Pretoria.

The commission urged Anoca, which will report directly to IOC, to respond to the initiatives taken by South Africa's official as well as non-racial Olympic committees.

Last month South African Olympic officials met with two representatives of the IOC Apartheid and Olympism commission. The meeting in Paris was among the first formal contacts between the IOC and South Africa since the racially divided nation



Ghebo (left), Samaranch (centre) and Mbaye listen to a question at the press conference. (Photo by Javad Basra)

was expelled from the Olympic committee in 1970. The South African officials pledged efforts to establish sports federations that would group athletes irrespective of their race. This is the condition set by the IOC for reinstatement of South Africa in the Olympic movement.

While acknowledging that it should respond to recent changes in South Africa the commission led by Judge Keba Mbaye stressed that initiative for plans to end apartheid in sports should come from the national Olympic committees in Africa.

"We have to follow the important events in South Africa but the Olympic movement must guard against making a mistake by taking too long a step" said Mbaye at yesterday's news conference after the final session.

The commission's stance is

in keeping with the United Nations' demand that pressure on South Africa be maintained until there is evidence of profound and irrevocable changes in the racially divided country.

"International pressure cannot be released until South

Africa changes its legislation and stops categorising its citizens according to race" said James Ghebo, the president of UN commission against apartheid. The two commissions joined yesterday to discuss anti-apartheid measures.

IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch, sounding a hopeful note, said that IOC may within months take an important step to solve the problem of apartheid in sports. He did not elaborate.

The commission urged the IOC to consider providing scholarships and training facilities for "less favoured South African sportsmen."

Ghebo said that the UN commission against apartheid maintains a registrar of athletes who have sports contacts with South Africa. More than 3,000 athletes are included, mostly British and American, but the latest list issued last October dropped more than 300 cricket players and motorcycle racers who had competed in South Africa. The commission does not penalise athletes with sports contacts in South Africa.

CRICKET

W. Indies recall Patterson for first Test

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, Feb. 20. (Reuters): Strike bowler Patrick Patterson was recalled yesterday by the West Indies selectors for the first cricket Test against England starting in his native Jamaica on Saturday.

Patterson, who last played for his country against Australia a year ago, seems likely to edge out Barbadian Ezra Moseley for the fourth fast bowling spot.

Curly Ambrose, a key member of West Indies' pace attack, is unavailable because of haemorrhoids.

Debut

When England last played at Sabina park four years ago, Patterson took seven wickets on his debut on an untrustworthy pitch.

Also recalled after a year's absence from the Test scene is Guyana all-rounder Carl Hooper.

Squad: Viv Richards (captain), Gordon Greenidge, Desmond Haynes, Richie Richardson, Carlisle Best, Keith Arthurton, Carl Hooper, Jeffrey Dujon, Malcolm Marshall, Patrick Patterson, Ian Bishop, Courtney Walsh, Ezra Moseley.

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